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Russian, Armenian Role in Georgia Noted

LD2910102393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Russian servicemen who began guarding the Poti-Tbilisi railway line yesterday have been given the order to shoot to kill if they find persons near the track intending to hinder train traffic. Interfax learned this from Colonel Gennadiy Dolgachev, head of the press center of Russian troops in the Transcaucasus. In his words, the Russian division placed the railway under guard after hostilities between government troops and supporters of ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia ended near it.

Armenia is to dispatch a battalion to Georgia to ensure the normal functioning of the railways, the press service of the Armenian Defense Ministry informed Interfax. Armenian units are being sent to Georgia at the request of Eduard Shevardnadze.

Baku Not To Send Troops

LD2910141993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Azerbaijan cannot meet Shevardnadze's request to send troops into Georgia to protect a railway line there because it must mobilize all its forces to repel Armenia's aggression.

In an interview with Interfax, a senior presidential aide described as "critical" the situation in southwestern Azerbaijan, where fighting with Armenian troops is continuing and stressed that "the country's future is at stake."

Armenian will send an army battalion to guard the regional supply route there, Defense Ministry spokesman Gagik Martoian told Interfax. But he did not say where exactly.

Nor did he confirm reports saying the 900-strong battalion had already been formed.

"Its strength will not be known until after appropriate orders are made", Martoian said.

Armenian forces are being moved into the region on a request from Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Oct

LD3010063393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0553 GMT 30 Oct 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 30 (ITAR-TASS)—The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper singles out the coming elections to a federal assembly (new Russian parliament) as the main topic of the week.

Commenting on the elections to be held on December 12, the newspaper notes that "Russia has a chance to improve conditions in the country for more radical reforms".

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper, commenting on Boris Yeltsin's recent decree on regulation of land relations and development of the agrarian reform in Russia, stresses that "if a land market becomes really active, as the government promises, this can bring down prices for real estate, consumer goods and food.

"The new commodity—land—will absorb redundant money. This means that cars, country houses and flats will be accessible to a greater number of people. Some experts forecast a fall in the dollar's rate against the rouble, claiming that it will be 1:300."

Under the headline "Foreign Intelligence: From the USSR to Russia", KRASNAYA ZVEZDA offers its readers a verbatim report of an interview with Vadim Kirpichenko, head of consultants under the director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, and Yuriy Kobaladze, head of the Intelligence Service press centre.

The interview focussed on problems facing the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service at the present period. The newspaper also prints replies by the intelligence officers to reporters' questions.

The TRUD newspaper, returning to the topic "Money of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union", puts forth another version of "how and where the CPSU's money was stashed away". The version is based on the personal archives of Nikolay Kruchina, the former business manager of the CPSU Central Committee, who committed a suicide.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper, continuing an investigation of the parliament building events on October 3-5, began to publish readers' mail which, in the newspaper's opinion, gives evidence on the number of the killed during the armed revolt.

The newspaper, referring to evidence from "an Interior Ministry officer" received by the editorial board, claims that some 1,500 corpses were found at the parliament building.

The same newspaper describes in detail the Armenian-Azeri conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The newspaper publishes an opinion by Azeri journalist Aidyn Mekhtiyev who, noting that Iran seeks "to become a mediator" in a peaceful settlement of the conflict, notes that "it will not be, evidently, to the liking of Moscow".

Another article contributed by Armenian diplomat Armen Khanbabyan states that full independence granted to Nagorno-Karabakh would be the most acceptable way of settling the conflict.

Reviews 31 Oct 'Itogi' Program

LD0111071993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0633 GMT 1 Nov 93

["Review of Television Analytical News Programme Itogi"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow November 1 ITAR-TASS—Preparations for the elections to the federal assembly of the Russian Federation remains in the focus of television programmes in Russia as a whole and of the Sunday analytical news programmes Itogi and Voskresenye. The first programme is put on the air by St. Petersburg television and Voskresenye (Sunday) by the CIS television and radio broadcasting company Ostankino.

"The question about acceptable and unacceptable arguments in political debates is now being resolved in Russia," the Itogi host, Yevgeniy Kiselev, said. "In any case the events of October 3-4 in Moscow raised this question most sharply. Will the parliamentary elections of December 12 mark resolute step forward along the protracted and difficult way of building a democratic society in Russia? There is hardly anyone now who can give a clear-cut answer to this question", Kiselev said.

According to Kiselev, "The most heated debate ahead of the elections will centre not around the political and economic statements of the candidates but around the question about the role of the mass media", because the money allocated by the state to fund the electoral campaign "is clearly insufficient" because it will have to be shared out to support the electoral events staged by all candidates.

Chairman of the Central Electoral Committee Nikolay Ryabov replied to a question from the Voskresenye host about whether the voters residing outside Russia would be able to take part in the elections, "I would like to draw your attention to the fact that it is generally believed that about 23-30 million Russians live abroad. This has nothing to do with reality". Ryabov stressed that in the case of elections one should have in mind not all Russian-speaking people but only citizens of the Russian Federation. He said there are about 100-120 thousand such citizens, and for them polling stations will be set up outside Russia. Ryabov said steps were being taken to prevent the registration as candidates from different parties of individuals who have not collected the required number of signatures (100,000) for the registration. A special form has been printed to be used in collecting signatures, he said.

According to the Public Opinion Foundation, a survey conducted in 20 cities of Russia a week ago revealed that the Russia's Choice bloc is in the lead at present: nineteen per cent of 1,059 polled said they would vote for this popular bloc. The Yavlinskiy bloc comes second with eleven per cent. Six per cent of those polled said they would support the party of Russian Unity and Accord headed by Sergey Shakhray and five per cent favour the Democratic Party led by Nikolay Travkin. The Civic Union, the Zhirinovskiy Party and the Russian Democratic Reform Movement headed by Sobchak are favoured by four per cent of those polled each.

Thirteen per cent of those polled said they would not turn out and thirty-four per cent said they have not yet made up their minds.

Head of the Federal Information Centre Mikhail Poltoranin appeared on Itogi to explain his recent conflict with Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko concerning press censorship. "Myself, I did not take part in squabbling. It's all Shumeyko's doing. I expressed my own viewpoint and said that it is not proper to hide behind an authority, behind the president's back when speaking about the introduction of censorship," Poltoranin said.

As concerns his plans to create a corporation under the aegis of the Federal Information Centre to attract all budget allocations for the media, Mikhail Poltoranin explained that the corporation he had in mind would bring together all the media as a holding company. "The corporation is designed to gradually relieve the capital-intense structures of the mass media from budget-funding. To help them acquire an independent economic base which will be corporatised to give journalists full independence". According to Poltoranin, this will be done quite soon. He believes that the establishment of a corporation would mean that journalists will have to earn their living independently and that the fourth power will evolve into a guarantor of democracy. The press must not act as bureaucrats bid, Poltoranin said.

Commenting on the armed uprising in Moscow in October he said journalists played the leading role in defeating the organisers of the attempted coup. Along with this he warned that there were no guarantees against a return to the totalitarian system. "This is why we all must be more active now," Poltoranin said.

"The Sverdlovsk region with its industrial and intellectual potential which cannot be compared to that of any republics within Russia must not be placed at a lower level than these republics," head of the Sverdlovsk regional administration Eduard Rossel said in an interview with Voskresenye, commenting on the proclamation of the Ural Republic by the region's Council of People's Deputies. "This is the only republic in the Russian Federation which is based on the territorial principles. We have people of 120 nationalities in our republic and all nationalities are equally protected", Rossel said.

"The laws of Russia are our laws. They are of basic importance for us and for our life, and they are fully observed on the territory of our republic," he said. "At present we have only one locomotive—the Government of Russia, and 89 subjects of the Federation which are like half-empty railway trucks. Instead we want to have 89 locomotives to pull along the entire state", Rossel said.

Both Itogi and Voskresenye aired reports of their correspondents from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Ingushetia, as well as interviews with the leaders and officials of these republics.

Admiral Stops U.S. Ship Off Sevastopol

LD2910144593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Black Sea Navy Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin has ordered that the American cargo ship "United States" be kept back from the Sevastopol harbor. As a naval spokesman reports, the commander has information about the presence of a dangerous load, presumably asbestos (a substance which can cause cancer) aboard the ship.

It is believed that the "United States" ship intended to dump asbestos into the sea.

The ship was heading for the Ordzhonikidze shipyard for an overhaul to be followed by capital repair in Turkey.

The spokesman also revealed that a group of ecologists, chemists, and senior naval officers plans to search the vessel before the final verdict is passed on the restriction of its movements.

Commentary on Kazakh, Ukrainian Nuclear Positions

MK2910142093 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 29 Oct 93 p 3

[Mikhail Shchipanov report under the "Our Commentary" rubric: "Nazarbayev Will Teach Christopher Etiquette"]

[Text] Visits by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher to the capitals of our nuclear neighbors have vividly brought to mind the science fiction descriptions of contacts between representatives of different planetary civilizations. Moreover, Nazarbayev and Kravchuk have emerged as roulette players who stand motionless with a heap of chips in their hands. The only trouble is that it is dozens of intercontinental strategic missiles that serve as chips in this game.

The secretary of state, who is little familiar with the secrets of post-Soviet Byzantine sophistication, was caught by surprise for the first time in Almaty, where he planned to sign with President Nazarbayev an appropriate agreement on the phased elimination of missiles that have already taken root in Kazakhstani soil. He might just as well have gone home... The process was cut short at the 11th hour: Christopher was told bluntly that Nazarbayev could sign a document like this only together with his counterpart, Clinton. When? Well, why not in January, when the great fan of the saxophone will set out for a great tour around Europe? Let's make no mistake, 7,000 miles is not fiddlesticks if missile matters are at stake. It is also clear that the newly sovereign states badly need any sign of attention from the first persons of the planet to boost their self-assurance, in order not to feel like Moscow's province any longer. For the sake of luring the U.S. President to drop in on them, people in Almaty are ready to disregard any rule of etiquette. You want missiles? Come to our place.

Something similar happened in Kiev, too, where American visits are, however, a common thing and a summit with Clinton had already been scheduled. This is why they chose to bet with dollars, ordinary bucks, which are hard to come by in Kiev, though. As the saying goes, we have their attention, but on an empty stomach. So, on the banks of the Dnieper, too, Christopher had reasons to feel confused: Local authorities are asking as much as $5 billion for nuclear disarmament. They may go down a bit, but they were not embarrassed enough to shelve the Nonproliferation Treaty. The SS-24 state-of-the-art missile systems may stay in Ukraine for another 20 years or so.

Of course, they are taking chances in both Kiev and Almaty by upping the antes in their game with the Americans, but they do not actually seem to have any other trump cards. The Americans are visibly nervous, as they realize that they missed the a sure way to negotiate from a position of strength before granting the new states diplomatic recognition. Now Nazarbayev and Kravchuk are certain that time is on their side. All the more so because of the current instability in Russia. In a word, someone must blink first. Either the West, which is getting more and more angry with the nuclear heirs, or Almaty and Kiev, which are fairly vulnerable in many respects.

Limit Placed on U.S. Telecommunications Imports

LD3110152993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Russia's communications minister said U.S. telecommunications standards could not be used in Russia.

Addressing a meeting of managers of communications enterprises in Moscow on October 28-29, Vladimir Bulgak said the Communications Ministry took a "restrained" attitude to purchases of American telecommunications equipment.

"Before the United States decides that COCOM bans on sales of modern technologies to Russia must be lifted, we will naturally take an apprehensive attitude to American standards and consequently to purchases of equipment there," Bulgak told Interfax.

Russian enterprises would only be allowed to buy devices meeting Russian standards, he said, adding that some Russian firms had tried obtain from the Communications Ministry certificates for American equipment which did not conform to Russian standards. The minister made it clear that, unless restrictive measures were taken, Russia might end up with a telecommunications network fully dependent on the nation banning hi-tech exports to it.

Bulgak said that, due to COCOM bans, the St. Petersburg- Moscow- Khabarovsk digital telecommunications line - the longest one in the world, - which is currently under construction, is based on the radio relay principle, whereas all such systems in the rest of the world use

optical fiber cables. For the same reason, the St. Petersburg-Moscow section of the line, which is already in operation, is closed to Russian users, since the digital transmission stations are equipped with technologies using frequencies of one gigahertz and higher, which come under COCOM restrictions.

Yeltsin Wants End to COCOM Restrictions

LD2910191493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The expert control commission under Russia's government held a session in Moscow on Thursday [28 October]. Presided over by First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets, the session pointed to the need to step up endeavors aimed at lifting restrictions imposed on trade with Russia by the Coordinating Committee on East-West Trade Policy (COCOM).

The possibility of lifting restrictions will be raised at the meeting between the Russian and American presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton, planned for January, the executive secretary of the commission, Rustam Safaraliyev, said at the ensuing news conference.

Russia has met virtually all COCOM conditions, Safaraliyev said, and now it will demand that it be excluded from the restrictive list.

Formed in the late 1940's by the leading Western countries, COCOM restricts or bans the sales of certain types of products and technologies to a number of countries, including members of the former Soviet bloc.

If Russia is excluded from the restrictive list, any Western exporter will be able to sell high-tech products to it, Safaraliyev explained.

According to him, First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets told the session that Russia must join "from the very beginning" the international organization that is being formed to replace COCOM with a view to regulating the exports of high technology products in order to prevent the spread of arms and military technologies to the developing countries.

Besides, the commission endorsed a list of double-use goods, technologies and raw materials. The list includes about 2000 items. From now on, Safaraliyev explained, Russian exporters of the listed goods, regardless of the form of property, will have to receive licenses from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and guarantees from the buyers that the goods in question will not be used for military needs and that they will not be re-exported without Russia's consent.

The list is considerably shorter than the analogous lists adopted by the industrialized countries, Rustam Safaraliyev pointed out.

Former KGB General Arrested in UK for Markov Killing

LD3110144393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 31 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Sidorov]

[Text] London, 31 Oct—Former KGB general Oleg Kalugin, who arrived in Great Britain today at the invitation of a local organization, has been detained at Heathrow International airport. He was taken handcuffed to a police station. Local law enforcement bodies suspect Oleg Kalugin of involvement in the September 1978 killing in London of Georgi Markov, the famous Bulgarian writer and dissident.

It is thought that the murder weapon was a special device in the form of an umbrella containing a capsule of virulent poison.

Russian Embassy Demands Release

LD3110151193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1458 GMT 31 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Sidorov]

[Excerpt] London October 31 TASS—[passage omitted] Officials of the Russian Consulate immediately arrived at the police prescinct. In their presence Kalugin said that he had been utterly uninvolved in the assassination and asked the British authorities to be immediately released, a representative of the Russian Embassy told ITAR-TASS. Kalugin also expressed the readiness to cooperate with the British law enforcement bodies in the investigation of the Markov case. Moreover, it transpired that Kalugin had referred in the past to the Bulgarian president Zhelyu Zhelev all the information about the assassination that he had because of his position.

The Russian Embassy demanded Kalugin's immediate release.

Kalugin Released From Custody

LD3110185593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1840 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] An ITAR-TASS correspondent has just learned that Oleg Kalugin was released from custody today. Suspicions that this former KGB general had been involved in the murder of the Bulgarian writer Georgiy Markov, which occurred in September 1978 in London, have thus proved to be groundless.

Kalugin To Report to British Police 4 Nov

LD3110200193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1935 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Oleg Kalugin was freed in my presence, Sergey Tupitsin, a representative of the consular section, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

However, the authorities put forward one condition: Kalugin is to report to the police on 4 November to "answer a number of additional questions." It has emerged that Kalugin arrived in Great Britain to take part in a discussion organized by the BBC.

Further on Release

LD0111092893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0827 GMT 1 Nov 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nataliya Kirsanova and Yuriy Sidorov]

[Text] London November 1 TASS—Former KGB General Oleg Kalugin taken in custody in London's Heathrow Airport two days ago was released on Sunday night [31 October] on condition that he reports to the police next Thursday to reply to a number of questions concerning the killing of Bulgarian dissident writer Georgiy Markov in London 15 years ago.

Oleg Kalugin arrived in London at the invitation of the British Broadcasting Corporation [BBC] to take part in shooting a documentary about the British intelligence service's MI-6. Directly upon his arrival at Heathrow, the general was handcuffed and taken to a police station for questioning about his complicity in the killing of Georgiy Markov.

A foreign office official, after numerous refusals to comment on the detention, said at last that the police wanted to ask Kalugin a few questions concerning his interview published by the London newspaper MAIL ON SUNDAY in April. In the interview Kalugin said that in the seventies he was ordered by KGB chief Yuriy Andropov "to assume the command" of the preparation for killing Markov at Sofia's request. The KGB extended "technical assistance" to Bulgarians by providing a pen with a poisoned needle which could kill an individual at a distance of 1.5 metre, Kalugin said in the interview. The needle was found in Markov's body after he died four days later. The needle was shot at a bus stop on the Waterloo Bridge in London in September 1978. True, at the time a poisoned umbrella was discussed. One way or another, Markov was mortally wounded by a rare poison rycin. According to Kalugin, the operation was carried out by Bulgarian secret agents who acted in full accord with film stories about James Bond.

Kalugin had made similar statements earlier, including in a press conference in Sofia in February 1992. The Russian external intelligence service at the time denied any complicity of the KGB in killing Markov.

Kalugin expressed surprise at his arrest, the more so, since he had told Bulgarian Zhelyu Zhelev everything about this killing he knew in the line of duty.

Along with this, Kalugin expressed readiness to cooperate with the British law enforcers in the interests of the investigation of the Markov affair.

The foreign office recognised that Kalugin had visited Britain several times without any problems, but this was his first visit after the publication of his statement exposing the complicity of the KGB in the Markov affair.

The Russian Government resolutely demanded the release of Kalugin from custody from the very beginning. Representatives of the BBC who were at the airport to meet Oleg Kalugin expressed their indignation at the arrest.

The ITAR-TASS office in London received numerous telephone calls after Kalugin was seized. Local and foreign journalists called to ask questions about the detention which the Scotland Yard refused to comment on. It became clear that the fate of one of the leaders of the former KGB evoked lively interest in many countries.

Upon his release, Kalugin categorically declined to meet journalists, regardless of what countries and publications they represented.

Japanese Foreign Minister Due in Moscow 30 Oct

LD2910192393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Koichiro Matsuura is due to arrive on a brief visit in Moscow on Saturday [30 October], a senior Russian diplomat told Interfax on Friday. Matsuura, who is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, will bring Tokyo's reply to Russia's request for a G-7 foreign and finance ministers' meeting to be held in Moscow later this year, he said. The diplomat said such a forum was needed to try to translate G-7's promises of aid to Russian reforms into deeds. However, he denied that Matsura's visit had anything to do with Admiral Kasatonov's statement saying Russia will continue to dump liquified nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan.

The Russian diplomat said Matsura acts as Tokyo's envoy. Much is now dependent on Japan which holds G-7 presidency until January 1 when it will be replaced by Italy, he said.

On Kasatonov's stunning statement, he said the Admiral's feelings may well be understood because the problem of nuclear waste disposal has to be solved one way or other. "But no one will be allowed to dump it in the Sea of Japan or strain relations with Tokyo. What is needed is to build a nuclear waste treatment facility and we rely on Japanese help in this," he said.

In his words, the Japanese are willing to help but not until after April 1 when the new financial year starts. "In the meantime, dialogue is in process on the issue and we hope to be able to resolve it soon," the diplomat said.

An official of the supervisory committee for nuclear safety, Gosatomnadzor, told Interfax that his agency's

position on the nuclear waste disposal issue remained unchanged. "Apparently, Admiral Kasatonov has expressed his own viewpoint which is at variance both with that of the agency and the government," he said.

Discusses G-7 Meeting With Kozyrev

LD3010170693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1628 GMT 30 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow October 30 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and G-7 representative, Koichiro Matsuura, Japanese deputy foreign minister, discussed on Saturday the possibility of holding a meeting of G-7 foreign and finance ministers in Moscow by the end of the year.

Matsuura has arrived in Moscow to discuss cooperation between Russia and the G-7 countries, the situation after the G-7 summit meeting in Tokyo and Russia's initiative to hold a G-7 meeting in Moscow.

Meeting journalists before the talks, Kozyrev said that Japan is actively promoting the dialogue between Russia and the G-7 countries. He stressed that reforms in Russia are irreversible and future constitutional reorganisations will help further them.

Matsuura expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks with Kozyrev, adding that they were very constructive.

The sides did not discuss the date of the G-7 foreign and finance ministers meeting in Moscow.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS after the talks, Galina Sidorova, Kozyrev's political adviser, said such meeting is "absolutely necessary." It is necessary to see what has been done and what hampers the implementation of the Tokyo agreements, as well as determine what measures to take.

The agreements envision, among other things, establishing a fund to support small and medium-scale businesses, privatisation and structural reform in Russia.

She noted that the proposed meeting in Moscow should be "very specific and practical." Reform in Russia needs a new impulse, Sidorova emphasised. "We believe that this meeting could prod our bureaucrats to act," she said.

She pointed out that Russia does not link the meeting with the elections to the Federal Assembly scheduled for December 12, 1993. Election campaigns should not distract the attention from the implementation of concrete programmes of cooperation mapped out in Tokyo, Sidorova stressed.

"The president has always been and will remain the source of policy in Russia. No matter what government is formed, he will remain the guarantor of this policy and its continuity. There should be no doubt about that," the adviser said.

The meeting could become a "preparatory stage" for setting in motion the economic mechanism and political dialogue at the upcoming G-7 summit meeting in Naples next year, she said.

The Russian side realises that the Russian economy is facing certain difficulties in the current complicated transformation period. Its economy stands aloof from the economies of the G-7 states. In this context, the seven plus one format is quite acceptable. But as far as political cooperation with the G-7 is concerned, Russia acts as an equal partner and no international problems can be solved or crucial political steps taken without Russia's participation. And the formula of the eight will be only natural here, Sidorova said.

Japanese Delegation Head Views Nuclear Waste Conference

LD0111064193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0612 GMT 1 Nov 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok November 1 TASS—"Studies of the radioactive pollution of the Sea of Japan will continue," the Japanese Foreign Ministry' Atomic Energy Department head Amano Yukia told ITAR-TASS today. Yukia was leading a delegation of Japanese experts to an international conference which discussed the dumping of radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan and ended in Vladivostok on Sunday.

According to Amano Yukia, the Japanese delegation was convinced that the Russian side favors cooperation in the field of studies of the effects of radioactive waste on the sea environment and habitats.

As reported earlier, the conference was a follow-up of the Moscow meeting between specialists from the two countries organised on the initiative of Japan after the Russian Pacific Fleet vessels dumped radioactive liquid waste in the Sea of Japan on October 16.

Summing up the results of the conference, deputy chief of the Far Eastern Hydrometeorological Research Institute Yevgeniy Karasev noted that the Russian and Japanese specialists had found a common language even though they pointed to certain differences in their research programmes. Along with this the specialists from the two countries stated unequivocally that these differences can be overcome and will not hamper joint efforts.

Navy Chief Says More Nuclear Waste Dumping 'Inevitable'

OW3010110493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1035 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Vladivostok, Oct. 30 KYODO—The Russian Government's approval of further dumping of liquefied radioactive waste by the Russian Navy in the Japan Sea is inevitable, the commander of the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet told KYODO NEWS SERVICE Saturday [30 October].

Speaking in the Russian far east port city of Vladivostok, Gyeorgiy Gurinov said a second planned dumping, which was to have followed the dumping of 900 tons of liquefied radioactive waste on October 17, was stalled because the government has not granted approval.

But Gurinov said the dumping will have to go ahead even at a later stage because of inevitable opposition by residents to its storage on land.

Gurinov's comment follows a remark Friday by Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander of the navy, who told a press conference in Vladivostok that Moscow will "soon" decide on continuation of nuclear waste dumping in the Japan Sea.

This was despite an announcement by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin that the country would suspend the planned dumping after Japan and South Korea protested the matter.

Kasatonov said the Navy's Pacific Fleet has 1,000 tons of liquefied radioactive waste that must be dumped.

Gurinov indicated the Russian Navy and outlying provincial governments are currently pressuring Moscow for resumption of the dumping.

"We are at the stage where we are explaining this to the government," Gurinov said.

"If there is no permit, we will not dump it, but we are hoping for approval as soon as possible."

Gurinov said if government approval is not forthcoming, residents near the stored material would be placed in danger. He said this would result in governments of coastal provinces pressuring the central government for resumption.

He urged Japan to assist in the construction of a storage facility as the only way to deal with the waste accumulated around Vladivostok.

"There is a government plan to build something by 1997, but the problem is there are no funds," he said.

Asked if there is no way to increase the amount of waste in storage, Gurinov said it is currently stored in two tankers, but one is aging and will soon be useless.

Gurinov said negotiations are being conducted with consideration being given to buying a larger tanker from the Ukraine.

"If we can buy the tanker, the amount we can store will increase greatly," he said.

Gurinov said the Russian Pacific Fleet recently decommissioned about 20 nuclear submarines, but that the disposal of their reactors is posing major problems.

He said dismantled submarines would be left as they are because of the lack of funds and logistical problems involved in taking them to a nuclear processing center in central Russia.

Maritime Kray Chief Comments

LD3010220693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] For two weeks now, the scandal surrounding Russia's dumping of liquid radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan has not abated. Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, head of administration in Maritime kray, today proposed dumping the waste not in the Sea of Japan but in the open ocean. At the same time, Nazdratenko admitted that old ships in which liquid waste is now accumulated and transported are completely unfit for ocean navigation.

Oil Concern To Get 'Soft' Loan From Japanese Bank

PM0111102193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Leskov report: "Russian Oil and Gas Empire Being Created on Western Money"]

[Text] Terms for an unprecedented loan of $700 million to the Russian "LUKoyl" oil extracting concern by the Japanese Mitsui bank were finally agreed in Moscow Tuesday. This and a series of other recent events in the fuel and energy complex give grounds for talking about the formation of a giant Russian syndicate.

The credit terms are staggeringly "soft" so far as our side is concerned. The loan's repayment period is seven years, and the interest rate is 8 percent. Only 15-20 percent of the loaned sum has to be used to purchase equipment from Japanese companies for the restoration and boring of wells and the construction of mobile plants. "LUKoyl" naturally intends to settle up by using the proceeds from selling oil, but it remains free to choose its own customers. This really set this agreement apart from the loans which the Russian oil industry received this summer from the World Bank ($610 million) and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development ($174.3 million).

The "LUKoyl" concern informed IZVESTIYA that, thanks to the loan, it will be possible to extract another 24 million tonnes of oil during its seven-year term. This is nice, of course, but it will hardly solve the problems of the Russian oil complex, which has reduced oil extraction from 570 million tonnes in 1987 to 396 million last year. It will take $50 billion to achieve the former volumes once more. Nevertheless, our oil industry will basically have to rely on its own resources and look to the domestic market.

The agreement between Mitsui and "LUKoyl" gives grounds to talk about the ever greater activeness of the industrial and financial groups connected with the giants of the Russian fuel and energy complex. The "Gazprom" Russian joint-stock company, the "LUKoyl" oil company, and the "Imperial" commercial bank founded by them are becoming particularly influential. With each month "Gazprom," which V. Chernomyrdin headed for a long time, is strengthening its monopoly in the extraction, transportation, and sale of Russian gas. Fuel and Energy Minister Yu. Shafranik used to head one of the leading associations of "LUKoyl," which is among the three largest oil companies in the world.

"Imperial" swallowed up the "Rossiyskiy Kredit" bank (the largest bureau de change network [illegible] signed an agreement with the "Yugorskiy" bank [illegible] brought into being a financial syndicate with assets estimated at 3 trillion rubles. These immense assets, combined with the potential of "Gazprom" and "LUKoyl," make it possible to speak of the formation of an industrial and financial supergiant.

The supergiant is concerned about its image. "Gazprom" recently triumphantly announced its sponsorship of the Russian national soccer team. "LUKoyl" is near to taking a similar step with the TsSKA ice hockey team.

SRV Aide Calls For Renegotiation of Cam Ranh Base Terms

PM2910171193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Oct 93 First Edition p 3

[Boris Vinogradov report: "Pacific Fleet Remaining in Cam Ranh Bay for Time Being"]

[Text] At a meeting with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Andrey Kozyrev acknowledged that the Russian Foreign Ministry had nothing to do with sending to the United States secret documents from CPSU and former Soviet military intelligence archives which maintained that far more American pilots were imprisoned in Vietnamese prisons during the war than figured on the official lists.

The head of the Russian Federation's foreign policy department assured his colleague that henceforth documents of a similar nature would be examined in Moscow and would not go abroad without consultations with the Vietnamese side. The sides agreed to consider the event a "misunderstanding" which must not affect the development of friendly relations between the two countries.

In an interview with your IZVESTIYA correspondent the Vietnamese minister mentioned that the unexpected appearance of the so-called "Russian documents"—which have been deemed false, incidentally—has adversely affected the normalization of Vietnam's relations with the United States. This humanitarian problem requires delicate treatment, the minister pointed out.

Russia intends to maintain its key positions in Vietnam, given that country's rapid economic growth in recent years. The question of the fate of the Pacific Fleet base in Cam Ranh Bay was not specially raised. However, at a meeting with correspondents Kozyrev said that Russia is interested in keeping Cam Ranh and intends to continue military cooperation with Vietnam.

For his part, Nguyen Manh Cam stressed that, in particular, the terms of the presence of Russian warships in Cam Ranh and the forms and size of the payment for services rendered by the Vietnamese side on the technical servicing of the fleet must be renegotiated.

Foreign Minister Leaves

LD3010083893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 30 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow October 30 TASS—Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, left Moscow for home today upon the conclusion of his official visit to Moscow.

During the visit he had a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The talks between the foreign ministers of Russia and Vietnam have resulted in a signing of inter-gorvernmental agreements on cultural and scientific cooperation, mutual trips of citizens, as well as a protocol on foreign ministries cooperation.

Nguyen Manh Cam has positivly assessed the results of his first official visit to Russia. He noted that the Vietnamese Government attaches gerat importance to deepening of friendly contatcs with our country. An important step forwad has been made after a temporary stagnation, the minister stressed.

DPRK Envoy Gives Details on Reunification

SK3010001293 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to Russia, stated in Moscow on 28 October that instituting the confederation on the Korean peninsula can be the only way to achieve peaceful reunification of the North and South at an early date.

He introduced the DPRK's proposal on reunifying the North and South by founding a confederal republic. Under the confederal republic, a unified national government will be established in which the two different ideologies and systems exist, he said. The official title of the reunified country will be the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, he added.

Grants Interview on Reunification

LD3110143693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Interview with DPRK Ambassador Son Song-pil on the DPRK reunification initiative, by correspondent Aleksandr Ruvinskiy; Son speaks in Korean with Russian translation; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] [Ruvinskiy] In your view, and in the view of the DPRK Government, what sort of new state would there be, created on the basis of two currently existing states? Many of your nearest neighbors may be worried that a major state will be created, with a population of 70 million, which will be a fairly large military power.

[Son] As we have already said, we insist that the North and South of our country should unite on the basis and in the form of a confederation.

[Ruvinskiy] It will be called the Republic...

[Son] Confederative Democratic Republic of Korea.

[Ruvinskiy] The basic principles that could be laid down in the existence of such a state.

[Son] A state of this kind should be a neutral state. The fact that socialist and capitalist systems, different from each other, exist in the North and South of our country, simply forces us to arrive at a neutral state of this kind. This state will be a stabilizing factor that will provide for peace and security on the Asian continent and in northeast Asia.

[Ruvinskiy] So, in the new confederative state two completely different economic systems could coexist, as well as two ideologies?

[Son] Yes. We want to bring the Confederation into being on the basis of two systems, two ideologies, and two governments in the North and the South, on the basis of self-government.

[Ruvinskiy] Many foreign entrepreneurs have invested large amounts in the southern Korean state. Foreign capital is well developed there. How would you settle that problem under these conditions?

[Son] When the Confederation comes into being we will not touch foreign investments or foreign capital.

[Ruvinskiy] The DPRK Government has proposed a specific 10- point program. Are you meeting any objections to any of these points among your southern neighbors at the level of state leaders? How do they see it?

[Son] The 10-point program is supported not only by the population of the northern part of the republic but of the southern part as well. We know that already, but for the time being the South Korean leaders are not responding in this matter. Nobody is objecting to this proposal insofar as we are convinced that these proposals are fair.

[Ruvinskiy] Thank you for this interview.

Foreign Ministry Official Gives News Briefing

Welcomes NATO's 'New Approaches'

LD2910151093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The recent talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Moscow and the results of the conference conducted by defense ministers from the NATO countries in Travemunde indicate that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is developing new approaches to its continued transformation and to the development of relations with Russia and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This statement was made at Friday's briefing in Moscow by a spokesman for Russia's Foreign Ministry, Mikhail Demurin.

According to him, the concept of "partnership in the name of peace" which NATO is discussing provides for the signing of a series of bilateral agreements on partnership with Russia and with other East European nations. "NATO officials are thinking about joining the efforts of the countries that used to belong to opposite political-military unions, with a view towards strengthening peace and stability in Europe," the diplomat said. "It is essential that the drawing of demarcation lines between European countries and the emergence of unequal security areas are ruled out. A number of considerations underlying this concept are concordant with our notions concerning ways to construct a new European architecture."

Denies Troops Involved in Georgia

LD2910154693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] A traditional briefing on current foreign policy was held today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center, conducted by Mikhail Demurin, deputy head of directorate of the information and press department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Replying to a question about the role of Russian troops in Georgia, and about their participation or not in hostilities on the side of Georgian Government troops, Mikhail Demurin said in part:

[Begin Demurin recording] Russian troops are guarding the most vulnerable section of the railway between Poti and Kutaisi. They did this without waiting for the peacemaking forces from Armenia to arrive. This issue is still being discussed in Armenia and Azerbaijan, but there is no question, and can be no question, of Russian troops participating in the civil war being waged in Georgia. [end recording]

Comments Further on Georgia

LD2910215893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] There can be no question of Russia's military involvement in Georgia's civil war, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin said at a news briefing in Moscow on Friday [29 October]. He said Russian troops were being moved in to guard vital supply routes from Poti to Yerevan and Baku via Tbilisi.

He said Defense Chief Pavel Grachev was instructed to allocate manpower and weapons from the Transcaucasian Group of Russian Forces to protect the vital railway link together with Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani troops.

Demurin reaffirmed that Russian troops had taken control of the most vulnerable section of the railway between Poti and Kutaisi before Armenian peacekeepers arrived in the region..

On Tuesday's incident in Sukhumi, in which three Russian soldiers were injured after an attack by Georgian forces, Demurin said the Georgian Government's explanation of what it described as a mistake did hold water. The spokesman said the latest incident was not the first of its kind. The main reason is that the sides had either failed or did not want to demarcate clearly the line of engagement and did not comply with their obligations to remove all irregular units from the region, he said.

Says French Prime Minister To Visit

LD2910152693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow October 29 TASS—French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur will come to Russia on an official visit on November 1-2, deputy head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department Mikhail Demurin told a briefing here today.

The prime minister is expected to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin and hold negotiations with his Russian counterpart Viktor Chernomyrdin.

As for international issues, the sides will focus on boosted Russian integration with the world economy and its enhanced interaction with the seven industrially-developed nations. European problems and the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States will be in the center of the meeting's attention.

The diplomat expressed the assurance the visit will give a fresh impetus to the development of Russian-French cooperation and reminded in his respect about the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Russian-French Union. An exhibition to commemorate the event will be visited by the French premier.

Government To Adhere to Nuclear Test Moratorium

LD2910175093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1722 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations October 29 TASS—Russia proclaimed its adherence to the nuclear tests moratorium, in spite of an underground nuclear blast staged by China, said a statement of the Russian Government circulated on Friday in the United Nations headquarters as an official document of the General Assembly.

"The government of the Russian Federation expresses profound regret over the nuclear test staged by China. It is remarkable that the test was carried at a time when the world came to a truly unique opportunity to get rid of nuclear testing once and for all. Thus ignored were the appeals of many countries, including Russia, not to break the silence at the testing ranges all over the world", the document said.

"In these circumstances the government of the Russian Federation announces its adherence to the moratorium and calls for other states to follow the example. Nevertheless the Russian Federation reserves the right to revise the decision on the moratorium if further unfavourable developments occur in this sphere", the document stressed.

Kozyrev Talks With 'Helsinki Watch' Officials

LD0111120893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1125 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev hopes that Foreign and Finance Ministers of G-7 countries and Russia will meet in Moscow before the end of this year.

He told this to an INTERFAX correspondent before a meeting with the leadership of Helsinki Watch, an organization campaigning for the defense of human rights.

Kozyrev believes that such a conference, where Tokyo's package of aid to Russia is to be discussed, will be preceded by a meeting between representatives of G-7 states and Russia in December, or possibly in November.

Talking to Helsinki Watch officials, the minister did not rule out the possibility of some irregularities at the upcoming elections to the Federal Assembly in Russia.

He made it clear that they certainly could be expected from the old party structures - "structures that are still strong at the local level" - rather than from the government.

Kozyrev Asks UN Support for Peacekeeping

PM2910203193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Oct 93 First Edition pp 1, 7

[Article by Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev: "United Nations: The World's Hopes and Fears"]

[Text] The other day the world community celebrated United Nations Day. In such cases it is customary to express one's adherence to the ideals of the UN Charter and to remember that this organization was founded by peoples in order to "spare future generations the miseries of war," "to underline faith in basic human rights," and so forth. Today, however, this is not enough. Mankind's problems are multiplying too rapidly—from the unleashing of bloody interethnic conflicts to the destruction of the atmosphere's ozone layer. And the extreme pressure the United Nations is under as it attempts to deflect the onslaught of these problems is all too evident.

This relates primarily to the key problem of world politics—peacekeeping. Despite the fact that during the last five years the organization has "set in train" more peacekeeping operations than in the previous two decades, there are far more unresolved conflicts than there are extinguished hotbeds of enmity. There is still no prospect that a settlement is near in Bosnia. Civil wars are still dragging on in Afghanistan and Angola; these wars were, so to speak, "forgotten" by the international community once the countries concerned ceased to be pawns in the Cold War. Moreover, mankind is again uncovering problems for itself which, it seemed, had disappeared into the past. An epidemic of aggressive nationalism threatens to engender virulent hotbeds of conflict in the postcommunist world. The tragedy of the Transcaucasus provides blatant evidence of this. Mafia-cum-clan rivalry is leading to the weakening or else the virtual death of statehood in a number of Third World countries such as Somalia.

Russia is making a significant contribution to the UN efforts to establish peace. C[illegible],000 of our servicemen and civilian specialists are carrying out peacekeeping tasks across the territory of the former USSR and far beyond its borders. Our actions are already yielding initial results in South Ossetia and the Dniester region. With our involvement, Tajikistan is witnessing the start of a movement toward normality and national dialogue. Russia is taking active steps to halt the Abkhaz and Karabakh conflicts by providing the victims with humanitarian aid. However, our resources, which are limited in this difficult period for our country, are also overstretched.

So what is the way out?

The solution lies, first of all, in ensuring actual unity of action by all UN members and making the organization's peacekeeping work more targeted and effective.

This presupposes the definition by the UN Security Council of clear-cut criteria for activating the organization's peacekeeping forces and clarity of purpose as regards their deployment. In this connection the experience of the UN operations in Somalia and Haiti gives grounds for serious reflection. We also need more effective command of the UN military contingents. It is time to coordinate a procedure for UN cooperation with regional organizations, including the CIS, in the peacekeeping sphere. On all these groups of problems Russia has submitted detailed proposals to the present session of the UN General Assembly. The initial response demonstrates that we have touched on some really pressing problems. We now need to look for answers to these questions together.

The United Nations could be more active in its support of Russia's peacekeeping efforts in other CIS member countries. We are motivated not by "neo-imperialist ambitions" but by a concern for peace and an understanding of Russia's vital interests in the former Soviet area.

In certain cases Russian peacekeeping in the former USSR might require a UN mandate. I am trying to persuade our Security Council partners and the UN secretary general that this problem should not be approached via the old UN canons. All our peacekeeping operations comply with the aims and principles of the UN Charter and are being conducted at the request of the warring sides. The fact that methods which the United Nations does not normally use are being employed in these conflicts (for example, direct participation by the warring sides themselves in the peacekeeping contingents, and, with their consent, that of neighboring states) cannot be an argument against mounting such operations under the organization's flag. The United Nations' tardiness in formulating an answer to this request from Moscow and Tbilisi was partly to blame for the breakdown of the Sochi agreements on a peace settlement in Abkhazia. Well now, are we to wait until the burden of keeping the peace in Abkhazia, Nagornyy Karabakh, and other regions can be shouldered by states located thousands of kilometers away from these conflicts? If this is the case, we will have a long wait. After all, the United Nations was not even able to send the required number of UN observers that the Security Council had approved to Abkhazia. Quite different forces might rush to fill the vacuum.

It will indeed be a vacuum. After all, there is simply no alternative to Russia's peacekeeping efforts in the former Soviet area. In fact the Russian peacekeeping contingents still lack special training; in emergencies, our troops on the ground are apt to act according to the logic of their own "revolutionary self-awareness." For this reason alone we need effective involvement by the

United Nations and the CSCE in peacekeeping operations in the former USSR. These organizations' experience would facilitate the training of Russian peacekeeping forces.

I would also like to see UN support in underlining the principle of a just allocation of expenditure to peacekeeping on the territory of the former USSR. After all, the United Nations, as a universal organization, should be equally keen to ensure peace and stability in all regions of the world, including the former Soviet area. We are raising the issue of setting up a voluntary fund for providing assistance to peacekeeping operations in this region. And although contributions to it would be made by states on a bilateral basis, a favorable "signal" from the United Nations would certainly not go amiss.

I shall be frank: Dialogue with the United Nations about these issues has been tough. The difficulty lies not just and not so much in political differences, although these do occur. The financial restrictions facing the organization are sometimes just as hard to overcome as the deadlock of political confrontation that used to exist.

One very important conclusion to draw from this is as follows: We need to mobilize our potential for bilateral and multilateral cooperation within the CIS framework as much as possible in order to address these peacekeeping tasks. The groundwork has already been done: Collective peacekeeping forces from a number of CIS member states have already been deployed in Tajikistan. This practice needs to be extended to the Transcaucasus—which is a conclusion that all the countries in the region are increasingly tending toward. Their peacekeeping operation mounted jointly with Russia to protect the Poti-Tbilisi-Yerevan-Baku railroad represents a step in this direction.

One more challenge for the United Nations—the problem of human rights. The collapse of totalitarianism has noticeably shifted the main danger in this sphere toward the threat posed by aggressive nationalism. Moreover, the rebirth of national intolerance and the growth of political and religious extremism are leading to even more serious and large-scale violations of human rights and the rights of minorities.

This problem is especially pressing in the former Soviet area. Here the issue of protecting the rights of national minorities—not least Russian-speaking minorities—runs the risk of outstripping problems of a humanitarian nature and becoming a threat to international security.

The United Nations, with its developed framework for protecting human rights and its wealth of experience in terms of its legal base, should raise its human rights protection operations to new heights. The main thing, as was stressed at the World Conference on Human Rights, is not to permit the erosion of high international human rights protection standards on the pretext that priority should be given to the development and special features of national concepts of how society should develop, etc.

The end of the Cold War is liberating the enormous scientific and economic potential of former adversaries for the purposes of peaceful development. The United Nations is called upon in these circumstances to act as a powerful center for coordinating international cooperation in the scientific and technical sphere and to stimulate the much-needed structural reorganization of a world economy now freed of the burden of militarism. This is closely linked to the task of eliminating the remaining discriminatory barriers to the transfer of modern technologies and the development of international trade. This, however, should not lead to a weakening of the regime governing the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver these weapons.

Nowhere has the change in the role and place of our country in the world been so noticeable as in the United Nations. Russia, as the successor-state to the USSR, is exercising its rights and responsibilities as a great power and a permanent member of the Security Council, but the ends and means of this policy have changed strikingly since Soviet times. The essence of our policy is not confrontation with "world imperialism," which at times spilled over into obstruction of the Security Council's work, but partnership with the other members of the Council, primarily with the great powers (not, of course, to the detriment of cooperation with other states both North and South). At the same time we need to uphold Russia's national-state interests, occasionally by indulging in tough debate. We believe that the embryonic "reflex to consult" that exists between the great powers on issues that are "ripe" for discussion in the Security Council should be strengthened more quickly.

In circumstances in which the burden of internal social and economic concerns is tempting many governments to "turn their back" or at least "half turn their back" on international problems, the United Nations is urged, through its work, to keep states and the public alike focused on the "burning" issues of world politics. The organization, like a hoop around the planetary barrel, should resist the centrifugal tendencies that place members of the international community in separate "national compartments."

On 30 October it will be 50 years since the holding of the Moscow Conference by the USSR, the United States, Britain, and also China. Here, for the first time, the idea was mooted that it was necessary to set up a "universal international organization" to maintain peace and security on the planet. The United Nations was conceived as an association of the democratic countries that had defeated Nazi totalitarianism. Half a century later the success of democracy has opened up the possibility of making the United Nations a really effective peacekeeping organization. By their joint efforts, the organization's members must ensure that the United Nations, like a mirror of the modern world, reflects mankind's realized hopes far more than its current fears.

Yeltsin Aide Stresses Russian Presence in CIS

LD2810120193 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Interview with Sergey Karaganov, member Yeltsin's presidential council, by Kirsty Wark, on 27 Oct; Karaganov in Moscow, Wark in studio; from the "Newsnight" program—recorded]

[Text] [Wark] Would you describe the relationship Russia now has with the former Soviet republics?

[Karaganov] Well, basically we are now at a turning point, or we have passed it. Most of the former Soviet republics, apart from the Baltic ones, start to understand that it is extremely hard for them to survive politically and economically, especially economically without the might of Russia. So basically all of them are, one way or another, are calling on and returning back. That doesn't mean however that Russia wants to get them all back, and to take over politically.

[Wark] But isn't there a danger that you are being seen as exploiting the situation in the republics and rather than being peacekeepers, you're actually being interventionist and imperialist?

[Karaganov] That is always a problem, however there a quite a few people in Russia who believe that we should lock them out because they are a burden.

[Wark] But just how far would Russian intervention go, or Russian Army go to protect stability?

[Karaganov] It should be an ad-hoc operation; we should keep out as much as possible and whenever possible, but when we have to get in we should get in in order to keep some stability and to keep conflicts from spilling over to other places within the former Soviet Union or to Russia itself.

[Wark] But do you recognize that Russia is certainly taking a more assertive line than it did nine months ago—and it looks as if the pressure's on perhaps from the military to take a much stronger line in the republics?

[Karaganov] I must say that there is a more assertive line because we also see how bad things are in the other republics and because we are called upon by major forces and by the governments of the republics. I know there is a nationalist feeling within the military but also there is a lot of feelings within the military which I would call non-interventionist, because they don't want to get into these messy situations.

[Wark] But it looks as if the Russian's are speaking with forked tongues. Only today Warren Christopher called on you to remove your troops from Latvia instead of dragging your heels.

[Karaganov] Well, there is a problem in Latvia and I think these troops should be taken out, and they will be taken out. But also we would like to get some help from the West to solve the problem of Russian speakers, or as Minister Kozyrev once put it—then we will have to move in with peacekeeping.

[Wark] You said the flashpoint might well be the Ukraine. Do you understand their reluctance to give up nuclear weapons when you've still got yours?

[Karaganov] Well, I understand the feelings of Ukrainians; however I do not share them because their country is in economic freefall. And the more they keep to nuclear weapons the more they spend on them and the less secure they are. So I understand their feelings but I don't think they are well substantiated.

[Wark] Moving on to talk about the countries of Central Europe. Why is Boris Yeltsin so against Poland, Hungary, the Czech republics and Slovakia entering NATO?

[Karaganov] Well we are not as far as I understand. Boris Yeltsin is not against these countries becoming part of NATO, though I know of quite a few people within NATO countries, and in the governments including your government, who are against that for all other reasons. The problem is that, and these four countries have absolute right to get into whatever alliance they want, however from the Russian perspective that means a strengthening of a nation's opposition here and also geopolitical isolation of the country, so what we are offering—why not Russia. Russia has asked for membership two years ago.

Cooperation With NATO 'Preferable' to Membership

PM2910144593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Oct 93 First Edition p 7

[Kirill Vyatkin article under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "Should We Join NATO?"]

[Text] A meeting of NATO countries' defense ministers ended a few days ago in the north German city of Travemuende. The adoption of a long-term strategy for the alliance's activity in Europe, given the name "Partnership for the Sake of Peace" and elaborated mainly by U.S. experts, could be considered as its main result. The adopted program presupposes NATO's conclusion of bilateral treaties with a number of East European states and a phased intensification of cooperation with them. The greatest attention is being paid to the development of cooperation in spheres such as military maneuvers, arms production, conversion, peacemaking efforts in the context of dispatching combined contingents of troops to maintain peace in various "hot spots," and the training of cadres.

At the same time, it has become obvious that NATO is not prepared to grant its new partners guarantees of security in the foreseeable future; as we know, this is what Prague and Warsaw insisted on with particular forcefulness.

It is no secret that the alliance's Brussels headquarters is trying to justify its stance on this issue on the basis of Russia's possible negative reaction. We know that during his visit to Poland in September, Boris Yeltsin withdrew his objections to its intentions to join NATO. However, at the beginning of October the Russian president sent the leaders of a number of leading countries in the bloc a letter in which he expressed Russia's concern about its eastward expansion.

It is clear, however, that the real reason for NATO's restraint lies not in the reaction by official Moscow but in the fact that the alliance's expansion involves a big risk for the future of the organization itself, and may have unexpected consequences for it. It is believed in Western capitals that the entry of new members will most likely make the functioning of NATO more difficult and will reduce its efficiency.

The optimum option, from the point of view of the Brussels strategists, was put forward at the Travemuende meeting. On the one hand, NATO virtually keeps its structures inviolable, on the other, in the face of the military bloc's obvious inability to overcome the course of events in Yugoslavia, attention will be reoriented to a great extent to the East, where the alliance is trying to acquire a new sense of existence after the end of the "cold war."

In the prevailing situation, it would evidently be most expedient for Moscow to give up the idea of joining NATO for the time being. It would be preferable to place the emphasis on developing bilateral relations with it according to the model of the United States' relations with Canada and the EC.

In any case, the fundamentally important task for today is the immediate adoption of the Russian military doctrine. On the basis of this document, we must elaborate and submit to NATO our version of a treaty on the principles of relations before January 1994, when the strategic spheres of the alliance's policy are expected to emerge. In a situation where Russia is essentially deprived of any real possibility to hinder the spread of NATO's influence in the east, it would be very important and useful to take a certain initiative into one's own hands.

Article Views Iraqi Funding of Opposition

PM2910132193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Oct 93 p 3

["KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Investigation" feature under the general heading: "Millions for Khasbulatov: Myth Or Fact?"]

[Text] Scandal Over "Husayn's Dollars" Once Again Proves That Russian Opposition Went Begging [by Aleksandr Shumilin]

So, here we have another information bomb—an article in London's AL-HAYAH saying that Saddam Husayn's regime gave $7 million to the pro-communist putschists holed up in the White House in the center of Moscow. To be more precise, the commentary mentions one recipient—Ruslan Khasbulatov. That is extremely important, no matter how fantastic the information that AL-HAYAH received from Iraqi opposition circles may seem. Because, over the last few months, the former speaker played the "Arab card" in his quest for "international support" for his anti-Yeltsin policy.

Nonetheless everything is in order. As we can see, it was not only under Gorbachev that the problem of attitude toward the Iraq-Kuwait conflict and, more precisely, toward assessing Iraq's aggression against the emirate in August 1990 split the top echelons of the structures of power into two camps (we would remind you of Shevardnadze's dramatic resignation in December that same year, a man regarded by orthodox Communists as "aiding and abetting" U.S. policy in the Near East). The eternal bureaucratic apparatus of the ministries and departments, which by the very nature of their activity had a bearing on the Near East, ended up split into the same two camps to varying degrees. Some of the Army top brass were totally unable to grasp why Iraq should not bring tanks into sovereign Kuwait when the two states were at odds; most of the leaders of Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations subunits engaged in exporting military technology immediately began weeping buckets because the Iraqi market was closed to them as a result of the UN sanctions, while trying to persuade people that politics is politics and commerce "should go its own road" (?!) even if that causes fresh upsets in the region; last, the group of the Foreign Ministry's so-called "experienced Arabists," who traditionally saw the Near East as an arena for confrontation with the West, did not entirely agree with the stance espoused by the leadership either.

The USSR has become a thing of the past, but the same people remain in the aforementioned departments on the grounds of the "need to hang onto experienced specialists" and consequently there is still the old confrontation over the Iraq-Kuwait problem. With the split in Russia's top political echelon of power, this problem became one of the cornerstones in assessing "who is who": People advocating that Russia should observe the principles of international law and the sanctions against Iraq were, of course, supporters of the executive and the president; the "friends of fraternal Iraq" began to group first around the parliamentary opposition and last spring Khasbulatov and Rutskoy openly joined them. Delegations of Baburin's, Zhirinovskiy's, Makashov's, and Pavlov's supporters paid frequent visits to Baghdad in an unending stream, but General Achalov's visit there this April—as Ruslan Khasbulatov's personal emissary—was the most indicative. I would remind you that the general led the analytical services under the former speaker, which, it is now clear, worked out the scenarios for the putsch.

The close cooperation between the parliamentary opposition (which by the summer held the majority in the

legislative organ) and Iraq's embassy in Moscow was no longer concealed. This gave Minister Kozyrev grounds to state during an "Itogi" program in July that Iraq's embassy in Moscow had effectively become an important center of antigovernment, antipresidential activity in Russia, but the minister himself was hardly aware that similar Russian centers with a pro-Iraq thrust were operating throughout this period in the Arab capitals as well, usually under cover of trade and economic firms. One of the phantom firms that operated for two years in Cairo was called SEITKO.

The sensational AL-HAYAH commentary went on to say that Sabir al-Duri, one of the leaders of the Iraqi special services, secretly visited Moscow and Kiev recently in order to persuade his Russian counterparts that the $7 million given to Khasbulatov was allegedly destined "not for a plot against the government and the Russian president, but to help them." If that is the case, then why did the money go to Khasbulatov? In a word, people in Baghdad were seriously concerned—that their anti-Yeltsin stance might come to light again as it did in August 1991!

Is it coincidence that it was precisely at the time of these emergent revelations that Riyad al-Qaysi, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry leader, visited Moscow—for the first time since the Gulf war—to "discuss questions of economic cooperation?" AL-HAYAH also reported that. Clearly it was no coincidence—especially since the visit occurred during Minister Kozyrev's absence. [Shumilin report ends]

Russian National Union (S. Baburin, N. Pavlov, V. Varennikov)

They keep quite about their finances. However, a direct link between Russian National Union leaders and Seleng's well-known Rossiyskiy Dom, branches of which are scattered throughout Russia, has been known for a long time now.

Russian Communist Youth League (I. Malyarov)

They have frequently stated that firms in North Korea, China, and Greece are willing to give them money. However, there is reason to believe that this is just a cover: Rumor has it that it is not commercial, but government structures in these countries that are involved in funding.

"Working Moscow" Movement (V. Anpilov)

It has very warm relations with communist parties in Latin America and North Korea. Thus, for instance, the Brazilian Communist Party openly paid for trips by V. Anpilov and N. Andreyeva. We do not think that they will stint in the future either.

Russian National Assembly (A. Sterligov's Wing)

The party is officially funded by his namesake German Sterligov's firm "Alisa," and unofficially by a number of Russian medium commercial structures. They were able to afford to lease an office on Staraya Ploshchad costing 400,000 a month (summer rates).

Russian National Unity (A. Barkashov)

The official sponsors are not known. However, a network of small enterprises "helps with funds." What is more, according to some information, "Barkashov's people" do not balk at simple racketeering.

Zhirinovskiy's "Gray Cardinal" Worked at Inturist ("Own Information" report)

According to the testimony of one of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's former comrades in arms, the administration of affairs led by Valentin Minakov, a former Inturist staffer with direct links with the KGB, plays first fiddle in the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR]. Apart from ideologically developing the "Zhirinovskiy phenomenon," the "gray cardinal" Minakov is involved in countless financial speculation.

On one occasion he succeeded in obtaining two trucks at the KamAZ Plant "to deliver humanitarian shipments," which were successfully sold on the black market. The same thing happened to 10 Moskvich automobiles and also to countless consignments of furniture and television sets procured "for the LDPR's office."

The same source claims that before the August putsch the LDPR received money from the KGB. After the breakup of the USSR the KGB stopped funding Zhirinovskiy and he had to approach commercial structures for help. At first money came in from the firm "Galant," the businessman Andrey Zavidiy (rumored to be holding some of the CPSU party funds), and entrepreneurs in Moscow and Izhevsk. Now virtually no business people are providing funds. The "INO" joint-stock company was set up to launder their own commercial operations and is officially involved in nothing. Incidentally, Eduard Limonov and Valeriya Novodvorskaya are listed on the payroll as "INO" staffers.

In the last year Zhirinovskiy has been vigorously seeking rapprochement with Saddam Husayn—he has been promising to change Russian foreign policy in the event of his coming to power in the hope of receiving a large sum of the money from the Iraqi dictator. However, the wily Iraqis are in no hurry to invest in the eccentric leader and their contacts have gone no further than exchanges of delegations. Minakov tried to do a deal with Iraqi oil in exchange for spares for the Soviet weapons in Iraq's arsenal, but the deal fell through. The most successful operations are currently with the Turkish firm "Bastash" [name as transliterated], which imports consumer goods to Russia.

We repeat once again that this is the story told by a former LDPR staffer. We will be glad to study the real documents to corroborate or refute this story.

Whom Did the Protection Fund Protect? [Unattributed report]

We probably still have a great deal to learn about the former Russian parliament, but politicians are now talking about certain interesting things during unofficial conversations. In particular, with regard to parliamentary structures funding of all manner of opposition establishments.

One of these structures was the Fund for the Social Protection of the Population. Ruslan Khasbulatov and Aleksandr Pochinok, former chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Budget Commission, had a direct bearing on the fund's activity. Our source reports that National Salvation Front congresses were financed by this fund. One can assume that the 1 billion ruble stash of cash found in the House of the Soviets also came from this fund.

However, time has changed everything to such an extent that Khasbulatov is now in jail in Lefortovo and Aleksandr Pochinok is head of the liquidation commission dealing with the affairs and property of the former Russian Supreme Soviet. Is that not because he knows better than the others on what Ruslan Imranovich spent the money?

Instead of a Commentary (By Sergey Pluzhnikov and Sergey Sokolov)

All parties in all countries have committed the sin of illegally funding election campaigns and propaganda actions. But perhaps the most impressive scandal blew up after the August [1991] putsch when it became clear that the whole world communist movement had been secretly funded by the CPSU with Soviet state funds.

The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office investigation established from receipts that the CPSU, with the help of KGB residencies, had paid fraternal communist parties $0.5 billion since the early fifties. Criminal proceedings were instituted against certain party leaders in the socialist countries for illegally paying considerable sums into the aid fund for left-wing worker's organizations and movements. The same fate may soon befall their comrades-in-arms in Italy, Finland, and other countries, who secretly received money and did not pay taxes. But what about in our country?

Members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo escaped with a slight fright when they received a summons to the General Prosecutor's Office. But they quickly calmed down. There are no grounds to charge them with self-interest, so they cannot be convicted under any article of the current Criminal Code for such a tremendous waste of state money. Under cross examination the Politburo members spoke of the illegal funding of fraternal communist parties as a matter of course—they were simply being loyal to Lenin's behests and selflessly carrying them out. Now God alone and their party conscience will be their judge.

Regrettably, financial machinations for political ends still go totally unpunished in our country to this day. The relevant amendments have not been made to the Russian Criminal Code and tax legislation with due consideration for Russia's sorry experience and the tried and tested laws of Western civilized states. It only remains to hope that all secrets are always revealed. If even the highly experienced CPSU Central Committee and the KGB were unable to safeguard their financial secrets, what can the current impulsive generation of Russian politicians do...

Political Issues

Zaveryukha Says Statement on Resignation 'Hasty'

LD3010092093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0835 GMT 30 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Goncharov]

[Text] Orenburg October 30 TASS—Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha, now on a visit to the Orenburg region, said that his statement on resignation was hasty and based only on emotions.

Replying to ITAR-TASS here on Saturday [30 October], he noted that the statement was prompted by the unresolved problem of mutual settlements with peasants for agricultural products. "We should restrain our emotions, focussing our attention and energy on work," he added.

Commenting on the Russian president's decree on regulating land relations and development of the agrarian reform in Russia, Zaveryukha noted that he is interested in the document, since he drafted it.

"Land was in private ownership for two years, as it were, but various restrictions prevented peasants from working on it with enthusiasm," he continued. "They have a chance now. The decree opens a broad perspective for them. If anybody wants to sell his lot, please do it or lease it.

"But you should not count on the state, as it was in the past, on credits or privileges. Do everything on your own. The president's decree is a new page in the life of peasantry."

Speaking about the coming elections, the vice-premier said that the Agrarian Party nominated him for a Federal Assembly (new Russian parliament), but he is still doubtful whether to run or not.

"I learnt here, in the Orenburg region, that the Komsomolsky collective farm also nominated me for a State Duma (lower chamber of a new parliament)," Zaveryukha said. "But I have not expressed my opinion on this event. Although I admit that I like more this offer.

"I had worked 11 years as chairman on the Komsomolsky collective farm and value high confidence of collective farmers. But I repeat that I did not consent to run, although my name has already hit headlines.

"Some newspapers say that I joined hands with Starodubtsev (Starodubtsev represents the interests of chairmen of Russian collective farms) and was allegedly against sales and purchases of land. But if I had been against, I would have not prepared the decree on land relations," the vice-premier underlined.

Personnel Moves at Security Council Assessed

MK2910094093 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 29 Oct 93 p 2

[Kirill Varov report: "Security Council in Complete Safety?"]

[Text] A mysterious level of authority [vlastnaya instantsiya]—the Security Council—is going though a reconstructive period. In the wake of the appointment as Security Council secretary of O. Lobov, who lacks his own political charisma and hence is totally safe, the Council experienced a number of sensational reshuffles. First Lobov got himself remarkable deputies. One of them is former chief of the KGB-Ministry of Security directorate. Another deputy vacancy was filled yesterday by Valeriy Manilov, who in the past was in fact Defense Ministry press secretary—starting this past summer he was simply an aide to the Security Council secretary, Marshal Shaposhnikov. The strengthening of the power nucleus of the Security Council is remarkable in itself. Recent weeks have been replete with talk about the strengthening of purely military channels of influence on decisionmaking in Kremlin ruling circles. It is interesting, however, to know not only who "moved in" the Security Council but also who "moved out" of it. The one who has quit its membership is Sergey Filatov, the president's chief of staff, who was once brought into the Council as the first deputy speaker of the now disbanded Supreme Soviet. This turnaround means more than one thing, to put it mildly, because Filatov embodied the civilian authority in the direct sense—wearing a jacket and tie. One should not naturally see in Filatov's quitting a sign of an impending fall from grace of the official who has nearly gained enough power—although it has been rumored of late that "up there" they are displeased with Filatov's passive behavior on that fateful night when the fighters assaulted Ostankino.

Be that as it may, each appointment or horizontal shift is full of its secret meaning against the backdrop of the present slurred picture of checks and balances. It is not without reason that they in the West have started to talk about reviving the profession of Kremlinologist, which had all but died. Incidentally, neither former Supreme Soviet speaker was a Security Council member on the strength of his position. One may suppose that not just Shakhray alone hankers for the envious position of Duma chairman. And that they are unhurriedly grooming experienced Filatov for this position while forming the Security Council without him.

Leaders' Activities, New Appointments Reported

PM2910115793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Text]

Meetings, Sessions, Trips

Russian Government Head Viktor Chernomyrdin was engaged in preparations for a sitting of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Presidium scheduled for 2 November.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets attended to questions of the defense order for 1994. Then he hosted a sitting of the Commission for Export Control.

First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar gave an interview to the newspaper NEDELYA UDMURTII [The Week in Udmurtia]. In the evening, the first vice premier met with leaders of the Independent Miners Trade Union.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko met with the trade unions aktiv in the House of Unions Hall of Columns. In the afternoon, the first vice premier visited the documentary film studio.

Vice Premiers Boris Fedorov, Sergey Shakhray, and Anatoliy Chubays are on leave.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha was in Ufa, where the All-Russia Conference on Questions of Completing the Agricultural Year and Stabilizing Agro-Industrial Production is taking place.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin continued talks with delegations from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on the unification of monetary systems.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov went to St. Petersburg, where an international congress entitled "Joint Entrepreneurship in Russia" is opening.

Decision Under Preparation

The Russian Government is examining the possibility of offering oil-producing enterprises incentives to make wider use of measures to increase the yield of petroleum strata, which may have a "drastic impact" on boosting the volumes of oil extracted. This was announced by Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik, speaking Wednesday in Moscow at the Seventh European Symposium on Increasing Petroleum Yields.

Traditional methods of extraction, which afford recovery of approximately 40-50 percent of oil-field reserves, are losing their effectiveness as these reserves are exhausted. So, in the minister's words, methods to increase petroleum yields which will afford an increase in the percentage of oil recovery are acquiring ever greater significance nowadays.

According to some calculations, approximately one of every 12 tonnes of oil is extracted using non-traditional methods in Russia even today. However, its prime cost is higher by comparison with that extracted by conventional means, in the light of which oil-producing enterprises require that incentives be made available.

According to the draft being examined by the government, the oil extracted by non-traditional means may be exempted from various taxes and deductions. Moreover, 60 percent of the volume extracted may be exported to pay for imported materials and equipment.

Appeals

The Russian Ministry of Finance has addressed Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin with a proposal to carry out an investigation at the Central Bank of Russia in connection with the publication of numerous negative facts about the activity of the Central Bank of Russia, "as this is extremely prejudicial to Russia's prestige."

Personnel

By edict of the Russian Federation president, Igor Melikhov has been appointed Russian Federation ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the State of Qatar. The Russian Federation president's edict also relieved Vladimir Vodyakhin of these duties in connection with his transfer to other work.

In the light of the fact that Bryansk Administration Head Anatoliy Vokhrushenkov committed acts aimed at defying the Russian Federation president's 21 September 1993 edict (No. 1400), he has been relieved of these duties by edict of the Russian Federation president.

By directive of the Russian Federation president, Valeriy Manilov has been appointed deputy secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council.

Government Press Service Head Receives Ministerial Rank

PM2910091793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Appointment"]

[Text] Valentin Mikhaylovich Sergeyev, leader of the Press Service of the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation, has been appointed plenipotentiary representative of the chairman of the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation (with the rank of minister of the Russian Federation).

Yeltsin Appoints Yurkov State Statistical Board Chairman

LD2910125393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1156 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 29 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree appointing Yuriy Yurkov as chairman of the State Statistical Board. Pavel Guzhvin, former head of the board, was transferred to another job.

Gaydar on President's, Parliament's Role in Forming Cabinet

PM0111122193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report from the "At the Center of Attention" roundup]

[Text] First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar considers the best way of forming a government after the elections to be the principle approved by the Constitutional Conference in the summer: Namely, that the president proposes the candidacies for prime minister and other ministers, and parliament endorses them. Some parties are raising the question of the need to form a coalition government, agreeing on the candidacies for prime minister and other ministers with party blocs. Yegor Gaydar expressed disapproval, pointing out that the deputy factions within the State Duma will ultimately reflect the views of their parties on the issue of forming the government.

Burbulis Interviewed on Russia's Choice, Yeltsin

MK3010113093 Moscow OBHSCHAYA GAZETA in Russian, No. 15/17, 29 Oct-4 Nov 93 (signed to press 28 Oct) p 1

[Report on interview with Gennadiy Burbulis by Yelena Dikun: "Relations With the President Need No Comment. An Unfinished Interview with Gennadiy Burbulis"; place and date not given]

[Text] I have long tried to interview Gennadiy Burbulis. For instance, a year ago, when Gennadiy Eduardovich left his position as state secretary and was temporarily between jobs, his aide Vyacheslav Nedoshivin several times arranged the time and place for a meeting, but each time it was canceled owing to his boss' other pressing engagements. This continued for a month, when finally the aide told me: "Gennadiy Eduardovich agrees that you write his political profile. We are ready to make publications about him available to you and share our impressions." No meeting with the protagonist himself, however, was envisioned....

But at last I was lucky—Gennadiy Eduardovich has given an audience! Naturally, the first question was about the incident that occurred at the constituent congress of Russia's Choice, when Burbulis "was dropped" from that bloc's list of candidates.

[Burbulis] This is not very interesting or important to me. A professional politician must be ready for any public outcome. Apparently the composition of the congress preserved those contradictions, disagreements, and prejudices which had earlier existed in society and in our milieu. This must be reckoned with.

[Dikun] Do you not think that the audience was accordingly conditioned against you?

[Burbulis] It would be very easy and convenient to give such an interpretation. But—I repeat—I related to the incident quite calmly and it is not a tragedy for me. The most important thing is that no such tricks can put me off. I deal with Russian politics consciously and with profound conviction; I bear responsibility for the course of transformations that is being implemented now and for those people who are in charge of it. In this respect I do not envision my activity outside the Russia's Choice bloc either politically or morally.

[Dikun] When feelings were still running high, however, you said in an interview: "This is not my trouble—this is the trouble of Russia's Choice."

[Burbulis] Why rake up the past now? Especially since our colleagues have left the bloc to run for the Federation Council and their places have been filled by those next down the list of candidates in terms of popularity rating—Makarov, Burbulis, and Zolotukhin.

[Dikun] There is an opinion that the October winners have split into two camps. Those who think that Yeltsin must retain his post until 1996 or face early elections in December which he is sure to win, and those who insist on the already announced elections of the head of state on 12 June. The first group includes those who are not sure of their independent political future without Yeltsin. This view is shared, for instance, by Shumeyko, Kozyrev, and Grachev. The core of the second group is made up by those figures who are already mature enough for an independent political career. They include Shakhray, Poltoranin, and you. Is this really so?

[Burbulis] It seems to me that my position here has not been accurately presented. I believe that the Federal Assembly elected in December will need to discuss and resolve the question of early elections, taking into account the situation and the real prospects.

As for whether certain politicians are linking their personal political prospects with early elections, I think this is a lightweight statement. We need to show greater respect for the views of those who believe that early presidential elections should not be held (it is enough that he has already twice received the support from the country's voters) as well as for the opinion of those who regard the idea of early presidential elections as stimulating and fruitful.

As far as I am concerned, the problem lies elsewhere. I am convinced that when society is politically weakened, early presidential elections make no sense. If we again elect a person—a personality—and count on his outstanding qualities and his charisma in society, it would be wrong. We need joint work on normal restructuring of political reality in the country. The formation of a capable and competent executive branch will be possible only when full-fledged political organizations have emerged in society in the shape of parties. This is what we must strive for. And it is only from this vantage point that particular statements and considerations by politicians should be viewed.

[Dikun] Gennadiy Eduardovich, even so your place in the hierarchy of power remains a mystery. Some say that you are still one of the closest advisers to the president; others, on the contrary, maintain that you have parted in a fairly unfriendly way. Could you clarify the situation a little?

[Burbulis] And what do you think? Never in my life will I assess or comment on our relations with Boris Yeltsin. And I confirm once again to you that I have always considered myself to be a conscious associate of the president and of the course that he is pursuing today. But for all that I have always had my own point of view, my own position on the fundamental questions of Russian politics.

[Dikun] Colleagues from MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI recall that during the presidential election campaign you once observed: "We shall certainly get the president's hat now. But what shall we do with it?"

[Burbulis] I am not interested in discussing journalistic gossip or this idiotic phrase about "hat in hand." Do you really suppose that I will seriously respond to this question or try to laugh it off? If you ask this, apparently you have a certain hidden meaning. These are not the sort of things that should concern you. Honestly, I am disappointed. I expected a serious, timely, and important conversation, but you seem to be interested in things that have long been of no interest to me. In fact what you are asking is this: "Gennadiy Eduardovich, do you not wish all of them to go to hell? Or do something, you know what?" I respond: "No, I have no such wish." Especially since it is clear to me that some people are persistently trying to deprive Burbulis of his consistency and stability. There are those who are simply interested in some spicy details. Never in my life have I ever discussed such things, nor will I. You should not ask about my relations with the president. You must finally understand that this is sacred, and calls for no public commentary. You should not ask about relations with Russia's Choice or the difficulties that arise there. Politics cannot be reduced to whether or not Burbulis curses Yeltsin. It seems to me that it is better to meet another time and talk about what really worries me—without those innuendoes.

At this point the interview with Gennadiy Eduardovich stopped....

Possibilities for Local Self-Government Examined

PM0111123593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 93 p 1

[Commentary by Vladimir Gavrilenko: "Local Self-Government in Russia Will Be Elective and Extremely Diverse in Form"]

[Text] The first point of the president's edict "On the Reform of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation" confirms the Statute on the Fundamentals of the Organization of Local Self-Government for the Period of Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform. What will this local self-government look like?

First of all the organs of local self-government will be elective; that is to say Russia's traditional principle in the organization of local power is retained. It will be an assembly of representatives, and that assembly is free to call itself what it likes—a duma, municipal committee, soviet, whatever. It will be headed by an elected head of local self-government, who will be named according to people's wishes and local traditions—either elder [starosta], or mayor, or something else, maybe even chairman. So then, as the saying goes, the Russian provinces can do their own thing: Some will prefer in the old way to have an elder, head, or chairman, others will choose mayor or prefect...

There are nuances in the exercise of self-government depending on the size of the population. If a population numbers fewer than 5,000 people, self-government is exercised by the population itself through assemblies and so forth, and between assemblies by an elected head who reports back to the people. Where there is a population of up to 50,000, the organ of local self-government is an assembly of representatives plus the head of local self-government. Where the population is more than 50,000, the organs of local self-government will be assemblies of representatives with the head of administration appointed by his senior colleague—the head of administration at the oblast, kray, city or federal level, or of the autonomous oblast or autonomous okrug. These functions could also be executed by a head of local self-government chosen by the people.

Since Russia's oblasts, krays, and republics are still divided into rayons, power in them will be exercised by the head of local self-government. An organ consisting of the local self-government organs of representatives of urban and rural settlements could also be organized.

The organ of self-government in rural soviets will be the head of local self-government (the head of the rural soviet administration). A collective organ could also be set up from representatives of local self-government.

Elective self-government organs operate, as a rule, on a nonpermament basis and are convened by the head of local self-government. It is he who signs all the decisions of the collective organ. The elective organ monitors the activity of the head of local self-government. His main duties, on the other hand, are concern for the local budget, taxes, duties, and problems of the development of the territories under his control, and many other things comprised in the concept of executive functions.

Public, State Chambers Split on Constitution

LD2910122693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1142 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow October 29 TASS—"The difference of opinion between members of the public chamber and the state chamber is the result of the fact that people, working in power structures are, on the one hand, representatives of parties, business structures and religious confessions, and, on the other hand, they interpret in different ways the fundamentals of the constitution," deputy chief of staff of President Yeltsin's administration Igor Kharichev told ITAR-TASS after analysing recommendations of the two chambers for the draft constitution.

Specifically, representatives of the public chamber suggest that an end be put to the national-territorial administrative division of subjects of the federation, favour equal status for all subjects of the federation and believe that republics, territories (krays) and regions (oblasts) should be replaced by lands or provinces. Members of the state chamber believe, however, that if those proposals are accepted, it will make more complicated relations with national republics, Kharichev pointed out.

Aside from it, it is impossible to achieve today an absolute equality of subjects of the federation. It can only be a goal to strive for. For instance, republics are now electing their presidents by themselves, while heads of administration of territories and regions are still appointed. The mechanism of the payment of taxes to the federal budget is also different for republics and other subjects of the federation: republics transfer them by themselves, while in krays and regions taxes are paid by enterprises, located on their territory. Because of those differences, subjects of the federation may be equal in relations with federal authorities, but not between each other, the state chamber believes, unlike the public chamber of the constitutional conference.

At the same time, Kharichev is sure that "the extreme points of view will be removed with the help of sober-minded arguments of the working group of the constitutional conference", which is headed by chief of staff of the president's administration Sergey Filatov.

Draft Constitution Seen Giving Too Much Power to President

MK3010125093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 72, 30 Oct 93 (signed to press 29 Oct) p 2

[Dmitriy Volkov report: "President Confronts Regions With Constitution and Curtails Powers of Federal Assembly"]

[Text] The draft new constitution which, as leaders of the presidential administration and the government have announced, is to be finalized early in November, has cleared the need to compromise with influential autonomies and regions. The regions' demands to introduce elements of confederation into the structure of the future Russia have been dismissed. Moreover, the present draft considerably strengthens the unitary foundations of statehood.

Presidential administration chief Sergey Filatov admitted that the reaction of leaders of the autonomies to the latest version of the draft constitution has been rather negative. When Mr. Filatov attributes this to the fact that the working group has dropped references to the republics' sovereignty from the text; however, he hardly provides a full answer. If this exhausted the entire problem, then, as Mr. Filatov himself said, the republics could introduce a reference to their sovereignty into the own constitutions. The document, however, also affects their economic interests: Under the draft, the Federation's jurisdiction now includes "coordination of foreign economic activity" of the regions.... And what coordination is possible without oversight? The working group backs up the provision on the federal state power system in Russia by prescribing to the regional power structures that they "necessarily correspond" to it. Moreover, all that has been left of the compromise formula about the possibility for some of the strongest autonomies to acquire a special status is merely a vague mention of "other treaties on separation of powers" which, along with the Federation Treaty, define the powers of the regional and the Kremlin authorities. The Federation Treaty itself, as is known, has already been excluded from the draft constitution. All these changes, shocking for the autonomies, will be discussed at a conference with the president on 3 November. A decisive attack on the autonomies' claims should undoubtedly please the supporters of free movement of goods on Russia's territory, but it can justify itself only with a reasonable organization and, of course, an effective performance by the federal authorities.

Yet it is perfectly clear that the federal power structure in the latest version of the draft constitution is unbalanced. The president has extensive powers to form a government. The State Duma may reject three times the candidates for premier proposed by the president, who then has the right to dissolve it. The president may dismiss the government and its head, and objections to this from the Duma may again result in its dissolution. Formally, this is counterbalanced by the introduction of a presidential impeachment procedure. This is so complicated, however, that the head of state may easily obstruct it with apparatus-like ways. Decisions on impeachment may be made by the upper chamber of the Federal Assembly—the Federation Council—only on the basis of charges of high treason or another crime leveled against the president by the State Duma and confirmed by the Supreme Court. A mere three months is given to these two bodies for this and if they fail to submit the case to the Federation Council in time or if the Federation Council fails to meet this deadline, the charge of high treason is deemed invalid.

Apparently the draft constitution in which the president's powers seriously exceed the parliament's oversight powers, should its authors achieve success in the 12 December referendum, might untie the hands of the executive branch for decisive and long-term actions in undertaking necessary but unpopular measures in economic policy. What is alarming is that the draft has

obviously been "adjusted" to the incumbent leaders of the country. First, actions by the latter are not marked by particular coordination. Second, it is not clear how justified their claims to irremovability are. If the personal lineup of forces in the country's leadership changes, the advantages of the executive branch before the representative branch may become an obstacle in reforming Russia.

Analyst Supports Government, Parliament Power Sharing

PM2910144993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Government Must Prepare To Share Power With Parliament, Prof. Aleksandr Livshits, Deputy Leader of Presidential Administration's Analytical Center for General Policy, Believes"]

[Text] How many programs have been formulated and adopted over the last few years! The members of the current government also have their own program. I do not think that it will stand in need of fundamental change after the elections and after the formation of the Federal Assembly and the new Cabinet of Ministers. The program adopted by the enlarged Council of Ministers 6 August is perfectly feasible. So, the main difficulty for the new members will be not the program but settling the matter of sharing power with the new parliament—that is the fundamental position.

We must now be inwardly ready to face the fact that the area of power that the Council of Ministers holds today will have to be surrendered. The time when the government concentrated unlimited functions of authority in its hands will pass following the elections.

It would be very sad were the government to still consider itself the custodian of supreme truth after the election, behave capriciously, and not agree to any concessions, as was the case with the former Supreme Soviet. If that continues, God help us, it will be a bad government.

But the main lesson to be drawn is obvious even now. This is that political decisions in the economic sphere must be thoroughly planned and their consequences monitored. That is, we need to know when, at what time and in what sphere, negative consequences of the adopted decisions may appear. Nothing comes free. In my view, there is no mention of that in the current government program. That is either a shortcoming on its part or an attempt to deliberately hush up the possible consequences. People must know the price that will have to be paid for the various decisions and who will have to pay it.

FITUR Upholds Independence; Suspension Expected

MK2910120093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Oct p 3

[Olga Garbuzova report: "Extraordinary Trade Union Congress. Federation of Trade Unions Upholds Its Independence"]

[Text] An extraordinary congress of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] took place yesterday. It was supposed to decide on changing the Federation's name, but following long debates the delegates declined to do this. It is not ruled out that the conflict between the trade unions and the executive authority will sharpen again, and the very existence of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia will be called into question.

According to information from the FITUR press center, some workers of the presidential staff and the government advised on the eve of the congress that Boris Yeltsin had already prepared an edict suspending the activities of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia. The purpose of this news leak, the press center believes, is quite obvious—to put a scare into the trade unions bosses to make them more complaisant. Leaders of the trade unions were also told that they would save the Federation if they change its name and if they "surrender" its chairman, Igor Klochkov, who during the October events clearly supported the "zero" option proposed by the Constitutional Court. Klochkov filed his resignation of his own accord having called himself victim of a ritual sacrifice.

Vladimir Shumeyko, first vice premier and minister of press and information, stated at the congress: "You and I do not want strikes. They are good when the government has everything but would not give something." In Shumeyko's words, the creation of a confederation of trade unions would increase their influence and turn trade unions from "charity societies" into "a mighty power capable of influencing the adoption of legislative acts." At the end of his address the vice premier recommended to rename the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia to an All-Russia Confederation of Trade Unions.

It can be ascertained that the congress made some concessions to the executive branch: A declaration was passed saying that the federation is not a political organization; it does not set itself the goal to come to power and form a government (the demand for the resignation of "minister-monetarists" is known to have been heard rather frequently during the spring and summer protest actions, and this demand could have been put forward during a possible all-Russia strike).

The congress nevertheless demonstrated on the whole greater independence that one could have expected. By a majority of votes the delegates decided to change neither

the name nor the structure of their trade union association. The independence of Russia's biggest trade union organization is thus not going to wane any after the congress.

It is quite probable in this connection that the executive branch will go over from threats to concrete actions, and the rumors about impending suspension of the Federation will be confirmed—President Boris Yeltsin will issue a corresponding edict on this score.

Trial by Jury Introduced in Nine Regions

MK2910124093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Oct 93 p 14

[Aleksey Sokovnin report: "State Legal Administration on Trial by Jury. Persons Under Investigation May Now Demand Trial by Jury"]

[Text] A press conference was held at the State Legal Administration (SLA) of the Russian president yesterday on the results of a two-day conference of the heads of administrations, court chairmen, and representatives of defense lawyers of nine regions that plan to carry out the first stage of introducing trial by jury in the country. The conference's objective was to agree on the already set dates for the first stage of legal reform, and to see to what extent the regions are ready to bring in trial by jury in the provinces.

Present at the press conference were Supreme Court Deputy Chairman Renat Smokov, Deputy Justice Minister Yevgeniy Sidorenko, Moscow Oblast lawyers, College Chairman Aleksey Galanov, and SLA Legal Department Chief Sergey Pashin. Mr. Pashin briefly outlined the first stage of legal reform in Russia. It is proposed that as early as of 1 November, trial by jury will be introduced in five oblasts: Moscow, Ivanovo, Ryazan, and Saratov Oblasts, and in Stavropol Kray [as published]. Beginning 1 January trial by jury is supposed to go into effect in Rostov and Ulyanovsk Oblasts and in Krasnodar and Altay Krays. Nearly 30 percent of the population will be "covered by the new jury" as early as early in 1994.

Deputy Justice Minister Sidorenko explained the principle for forming colleges of jurors: Every capable and previously unconvicted citizen of Russia who has attained the age of 25 can be a juror. Selection will be done by drawing lots from the lists of voters found in okrug electoral districts. One out of every forty choices will be sent a form in which the voter will give his or her brief profile. Next, special commissions (it has not been specified so far whom they will comprise) will eliminate from the lists "the most clearly unacceptable" candidates (previously convicted, workers of [security] organs, clergy, etc.). The commissions will finally elect 40 citizens who agree to become jurors, following which 12 primary and two alternate jurors will be selected from among them for each trial.

Mr. Pashin and Mr. Sidorenko advised that virtually all is ready in the five oblasts to go ahead with the reform: courtrooms have been adapted, some 400 judges have gone though refresher courses. Starting as early as 1 November, investigators (for especially important cases) in these oblasts are duty-bound to tell those under their investigation that they may have their cases tried, if they wish, by jurors. Mr. Pashin explained that Moscow and Petersburg had deliberately not been selected for the first stage of the reform so that no one could say that special conditions were created for the jurors.

Election Issues

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Electoral Campaign Guarantees

LD2910145793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1408 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 29 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict "On Information Guarantees for Participants in the 1993 Electoral Campaign."

The edict confirms the guarantees for free democratic elections. It underlines the right of electoral associations and all candidates seeking to be deputies in the State Duma and the Federation Council to set out their election programs and viewpoints without let or hindrance and to campaign with the use of the media, the Russian Federation president's press service announces.

In an attempt to ensure protection against illegal interference in the activity of the mass media during the election campaign, and also the free campaigning for and against deputy candidates and taking into consideration the recommendations of the international commission for radio and television policy [title as received], the president has decided to set up an information arbitration tribunal [treteyskiy informatsionnyy sud] and has approved its staff members.

Boris Yeltsin makes it incumbent upon all television and radio companies and distributors of television programs to establish and make public within three days the size of payments for the provision of airtime for each form of election campaigning.

The provision on information guarantees of election campaigning has been approved.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Favor Ministers Not Running

LD2910192593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1756 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Oct—Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, has supported the decision by a number of government members not to stand as candidates in the parliamentary elections. Journalists were told this this evening by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, one of those who has made such a decision.

Oleg Soskovets holds the view that attempts to involve government members in the election campaign are inadmissible. "I think it is wrong to campaign against one's colleagues and partners," he said. "We do not have the time to engage in election campaigning."

Oleg Soskovets gave to understand that the decision of a number of cabinet members not to stand for election has been welcomed by Boris Yeltsin.

'Text' of Ministers' Appeal on Elections

LD2910203093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 29 TASS - Follows the text of an appeal of branch heads to Russian electors:

"Dear compatriots!

"We - government members and heads of branch committees, who fulfill their duty to you and the president, - consider it our duty to make the following statement:

"The Russian national economy is living through a most difficult stage of structural reorganization, breaking of old principles and elaboration of new guidelines and priorities.

"The reform experience accumulated over almost two years enables us to make a conclusion on correctness of the main choice - the need for transition to market relations. At the same time, reforms require constant solution of specific current problems and specification of branch peculiarities of changes.

"The last months of this year will be especially tense for us - members of the Russian government in charge of the material production - industry, construction, transport and communications. This is caused by the need to coordinate efforts for the solution of regional, technological and financial problems of the national economy, and it is our professional duty to organize this work.

"That is why, we think it necessary to voice our decision to abstain from running for parliament deputies. We thank enterprise collectives, regions and public organizations who offered our nomination candidates for parliament deputies.

"At the same time, we appeal to you, dear compatriots, to take active part in the December 12 elections. Our choice will determine further reform progress in our state.

[Signed] First Vice-Premier: O. Soskovets

Head of the Russian State Construction Committee: Y. Basin
Russian Minister of Communications: V. Bulgak
Head of the Russian State Defence Industry Committee: V. Glukhikh
Russian Minister of Nuclear Power Engineering: V. Mikhailov
Head of the Russian State Metallurgy Committee: S. Afonin
Russian Minister of Railway: G. Fadeyev
Head of the Russian State Committee for Chemical and Oil Industry: V. Ivanov
Russian Minister of Fuel and Energy: Y. Shafranik
Head of the Russian State Committee for Machine-Building: A. Ogurtsov
President of the State Timber Industry Committee: M. Tatsyun

[Dated] October 28, 1993"

Some Ministers Decide Against Running

LD2910175593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1628 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 29 ITAR-TASS— Thirteen ministers of the Russian government and leader of state committees issued a joint statement today to announce that they decided against running for seats in Russia's new style legislature. Their motivation is the conviction that it is necessary to focus on handling specific economic reform problems.

"We are grateful to the collectives of enterprises, regions, and public organizations which asked us to be nominated and we hope that our decision will be understood correctly," the statement said.

"We are appealing to you, dear fellow citizens, to take an active part in the December 12 elections. Your and our choice will determine further progress of reforms in our country," the statement said.

Among those who signed the message are First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, Minister of Communications Vladimir Bulgak, Minister of Railways Gennadiy Fadeyev, the Minister of Transportation Vitaliy Yefimov, Minister of Atomic Power Engineering Viktor Mikhailov, and the Minister of Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafranik.

Shakhray Supports Some Ministers Running

LD3110152593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, who is also leader of the Russian Party of Unity and Accord, is of the view that it is both useful and natural to combine ministerial and deputy mandates in today's circumstances.

In an interview to the Russian mass media, he divided up ministers roughly into political and operational ministers. Shakhray said that it would be expedient for the political ministers to take part in the election campaign; the electioneering activity of the operational ministers, such as those responsible for transport and communications, could be damaging to the work of the government.

In contrast to other blocs, deputies from the Russian Party of Unity and Accord will adhere to strict party discipline in voting in the State Duma, Sergey Shakhray stressed. He also advocated creating a Russian coalition government in the future.

Electoral Body's Ryabov on Monitoring Irregularities

PM2910150593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Oct 93 p 1

[Lyubov Volodina report: "Central Electoral Commission Has No Intention of Closing Its Eyes to Irregularities During Election Campaign"]

[Text] Some 21 electoral associations had registered with the Central Electoral Commission [CEC] by 26 October. Anastasiya Tur, member of the Russian Federation CEC, thinks that there will be a total of 24-25 electoral associations in all. Since the electoral associations are to submit federation-wide lists of candidates accompanied by sheets of signatures (at least 100,000 signatures in support of each list) to the CEC by 1700 hours 6 November, members of the CEC are afraid that, owing to the lack of time, not all the registered election blocs and parties will be able to even get through the first stage successfully. The outcome of an election campaign run on the basis of party lists as a whole also causes CEC members misgivings—insofar as many voters will be disoriented both by the large number of lists and by the similarity of the contenders' programs. We would remind you that, in order to win albeit one seat in parliament, an electoral association must poll at least 5 percent of the vote in the election.

Touching on the course of the electoral campaign, CEC Chairman Nikolay Ryabov said that the CEC has sent the president a draft statute on granting equal rights and opportunities to all candidate deputies (and the political movements and parties backing them) in the allocation of television and radio airtime. Newspapers can publish "information of interest to readers" on the election campaign in line with the Law on the Press. A presidential edict on this matter is being drafted, and it may introduce certain amendments and addenda in order to create equal opportunities for the candidates.

Nikolay Ryabov also said that a monitoring and auditing administration has been set up to monitor spending on the election campaign and electoral associations must be ready to submit to the CEC all "supporting" documents. As for the reliability of the signatures collected in support of a particular electoral association, CEC Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Ivanchenko said that the sheets of signatures will be selectively monitored and, if falsification is observed, subjected to all-out monitoring. In the event of serious irregularities all means of persuasion envisaged by the law and by normative acts will be employed, including that of declaring deputies' mandates void.

Poltoranin on Elections, Taxation, Media Freedom

LD3010170893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1357 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] While democratic blocs compete between themselves for their electorate, the communists might overtake them. This fear was expressed in Omsk by the chairman of the Federal Information Center, Mikhail Poltoranin, at a meeting with journalists, with the leaders of the local news media and with correspondents from Moscow-based periodicals and TV and radio stations.

The goal of his trip was to get familiarized with the situation in the region, explain some stands of the Russian Choice bloc, and attract attention to discussions on the draft Constitution. Poltoranin believes that its endorsement at the upcoming referendum is even more important than the outcome of parliamentary elections. Nevertheless he hopes that Russian Choice will win. In this case Yegor Gaydar should get the post of prime minister, he said.

Poltoranin believes that after the elections Democratic Russia and Russian Choice might merge and form a political party on this basis.

He told those present that Finance Minister Boris Fedorov is concluding his work on a new taxation policy designed to stimulate producers first of all, which will attract them to the side of Russian Choice at the elections.

In the course of its economic reforms Russia had only one way out—the shock therapy, Poltoranin said. "Russia chose the right road, and we would have lived much better, had we refrained from giving 17 billion dollars to the former Soviet republics in the past year." However, according to him, the worst point of the crisis is over.

A package of documents aimed at supporting the news media and at granting it various privileges has been drafted, said Poltoranin. These measures are to be announced at the President's meeting with the editors of newspapers and the leaders of other news media planned for November 6.

According to Poltoranin, the press has done much more than many government structures did, and it earned the right to a normal life, but the unceremonious stand of some government officials began to nudge the press

toward the opposition. The proposed package of documents will help to improve this situation and secure a genuine economic freedom for the press, said Poltoranin.

Shahkray Discusses Goals of New Party

AU3010180793 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 28 Oct 93 p 17

[Interview with Sergey Shakhray, chairman of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord and deputy prime minister, by Andrzej Rybak; place and date not given: "Family, Property, Homeland"]

[Text] [Rybak] Two months before the elections, you founded a new party [in Novgorod on 17 October]. Are there not enough parties in Russia?

[Shakhray] Russia urgently needs a political force that watches the interests of the regions—without losing sight of the state. We rely on federalization, we want to mobilize new political elites in the provinces.

[Rybak] Is this not an attack on the president's strong power?

[Shakhray] On the contrary. Russia is a federal state. Without a strengthening of the regions there cannot be any strong state structures at all.

[Rybak] What, in detail, do you want to offer the regions?

[Shakhray] Moral and political support, laws and conditions for better cooperation. The party wants to rely on conservative values, such as the family, property, and homeland; it will not distribute export permits or tax privileges.

[Rybak] Yeltsin's team has split up. While you are heading the "party of the regions," Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar is heading "Russia's Choice." Why?

[Shakhray] Some see this as a split, others only as the attempt to find a political niche. I call this politics.

[Rybak] Your programs are hardly different. Do you not deprive each other of voters?

[Shakhray] I cannot deny that we are partly addressing the same voters. Therefore, we will probably put up joint candidates in some constituencies. However, we are not an election alliance without contours that could dissolve tomorrow.

[Rybak] Who finances your party?

[Shakhray] We are financing ourselves from donations by private persons, organizations, and companies, mainly from the regions. We take care from whom we accept help.

[Rybak] Will there be an election campaign with populist slogans?

[Shakhray] Many parties deny everything that the government has achieved so far. If they win, there might be another earthquake. I hope that the people will sift out the populists.

Communist Party Submits Candidate List for Elections

AU2910202293 Paris AFP in English 2015 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, Oct 29 (AFP)—The Russian Communist Party (RCP), temporarily outlawed during the state of emergency declared between October 3 and 18, submitted on Friday [29 October] a list of candidates for legislative elections to be held on December 12.

"The party considers the holding of these elections to be invalid but will participate all the same," Valentin Kuptsov, a Communist Party leader, told AFP as he registered the list with the electoral commission.

Another former communist institution, the newspaper PRAVDA, which was also banned during the state of emergency, announced on Friday that it would reappear as of next Tuesday.

Once the mouthpiece of communist thought, the new PRAVDA will be "a newspaper of civilized opposition," according to its editor-in- chief, Viktor Linnik, who was elected to the post by the editorial staff.

President Boris Yeltsin ordered Russian broadcast media on Friday to offer equal access to the airwaves for all political blocs and parties vying for seats in the upcoming elections.

Yeltsin's order came after the electoral commission indicated on Thursday that it was concerned about risks of sabotaged elections, because of the persistent influence of the communist movement, according to ITAR-TASS.

The RCP electoral list is headed by the party's president, Gennady Zugyanov, and includes 182 names, including such political figures as Anatoly Lukyanov, the ex-president of the Soviet parliament, now on trial for his role in the August 1991 coup d'etat, and former editors in chief of PRAVDA and SOVYETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

While the communists say they represent 10 percent of the population, their liberal adversaries estimate their ranks at less than 5 percent of the 104 million registered Russian voters.

Free Russia People's Party Leaders Hold News Conference

PM0111114593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Yelena Tokareva report: "Position Is Centrist"]

[Text] Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the Free Russia People's Party Council, and Oleg Sokolov, leader of this

party's youth movement, have held their first news conference after a long period of silence.

Vasiliy Lipitskiy shed some light on the strange situation in which the party found itself following the bloody events of 3-4 October. The party was on the list of political organizations whose activity was suspended. The official document suspending the party's activity was not actually handed to its leadership. The Ministry of Justice shed no light on this strange situation. Nevertheless, the party held no congresses, news conferences, or other mass events during this period.

Attempting to make up for lost time, the party has put together federal and regional lists of candidates for the Federal Assembly.

Lipitskiy noted that recently there have been reports of a split in the party. At the party's first congress two years ago, he said, a ruling body [pravleniye] comprising of 27 people was elected. The working section of the ruling body was much smaller, numbering approximately 13 people. During this period, certain colleagues who distanced themselves from the party but joined its ruling body in name only worked in the government and the presidential administration. During the period of worsening confrontation between Rutskoy and Yeltsin they took absolutely no part in the party's activity. So the document which these people signed stating that they were the party leaders came as something of a surprise.

The Free Russia People's Party is an organization of a social democratic stripe. It is oriented toward a social market economy. The chances of "Civic Union," whose lists party activists are running on, lie in the population's natural adherence to a centrist line. In response to the question of what exactly the party intends to reassess from the two years of its existence, Lipitskiy answered: "Some of our people (I mean Rutskoy) were unable to renounce violence during the period of sharp confrontation. Since the party has always favored the implementation of compromise solutions, this was a cause for serious reflection. It means we omitted to do something. We need to realize the full extent of where we went wrong...."

Presidential Administration To Help All Parties

LD2910122293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Artyushin]

[Text] Moscow October 29 TASS—"President Yeltsin's administration is ready to provide technical aid to all political parties and movements, including opposition groups, to help them conduct their electoral campaigns", announced the head of the presidential administration's regional cooperation department, Nikolay Medvedev. Medvedev spoke on Monday at a "round table" meeting between leading political blocs and parties in the former parliament's public relations center on Tsvetnoi boulevard.

The aid will mostly consist of allowing the various parties to reserve the former parliamentary center to conduct their pre-election work. There the future parliamentarians can use the library, communications room, and consult with experienced lawyers. A special group of presidential aides has been formed to coordinate work in the center.

This should by no means be seen as an attempt to interfere in any bloc or party's internal affairs, it is simply technical aid, Medvedev stressed.

Medvedev pointed out that all the parties and blocs have very different levels of financial resources, therefore the use of the former parliamentary center will be offered to them free of charge.

The presidential administration is also ready to assist parties and blocs in collecting the necessary number of signatures. Presidential representatives in the regions will be used for this purpose.

Responding to journalists' questions on the government's reaction to the attempted formation of a republic of the Urals by the Sverdlovsk district council, Medvedev said, "this decision is obviously unconstitutional. It doesn't even fall within the guidelines for the new constitution".

Medvedev condemned the head of the Sverdlovsk district administration, Eduard Rossel, for supporting the council's decision, adding that Russian President Boris Yeltsin should have the last word on this subject.

Popular Party, 'Free Russia' Unite

LD2910221493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The chairman of the Popular Party of Russia, Telman Gdlyan, and the leader of the anti-Rutskoy wing of the popular party "Free Russia," Grigoriy Vodolazov, told a press conference today they united their organizations. They said this was done in order to create a strong party of the social and liberal orientation capable of competing with the pro-government bloc "Russia's Choice."

Gdlyan and Vodolazov expressed their extremely negative attitude towards the regulations allowing a government minister to be nominated for the new Russian parliament.

The two leaders were confident that the new parliament will not last more than two years. In their opinion, the united party will be so reinforced that it will be the ruling one at the elections in two years.

Fragmentation of Electoral Opposition Helps Reformist Camp

PM2910153793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Oct 93 p 1

[Feliks Babitskiy report: "White-Pinks Instead of Red-Browns?"]

[Text] Many people are still puzzled as to what was behind Boris Yeltsin's decision to allow a number of parties that he banned not so long ago to take part in the election campaign. But whereas you can kind of understand the lifting of the ban on the activity of the Free Russia People's Party—it was only its leader Aleksandr Rutskoy who sided with the "hard-liners," while the party itself did not support him and remained, as it was, center-left—what can you say about Zyuganov's Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF]? This party openly declares itself the successor of the CPSU and aspires to unite all communist-patriotic forces in the country.

However, maybe that explains what at first glance seems to be Yeltsin's illogical decision. After all, with the temporary disappearance from the political scene of the mass-populist, not to say "marginal," CPRF, the truly nomenklatura-based—that is, professional, respectable, centrist—Socialist Party of the Working People [SPWP] has "revived and strengthened." It has succeeded in creating a fairly sizable election bloc, including the center-right Union for the Revival of Russia, and the "not poor," to put it mildly, Union of Oil Workers. Thus, a "White-Pink" alliance, respecting democratic rules of play, has come to replace the "Red-Brown" alliance that stormed Ostankino and alarmed the civilized world.

In this situation Zyuganov's jinni, once again freed from the bottle, has proved highly opportune. It will now be hard for the the SPWP, with its common roots with the CPRF, to explain to voters what the difference between them is. Some of the new bloc's electorate will once again return to the banners of their former idols. And after 12 December we may simply find two or three people on the lists of candidates from Zyuganov's group regarding whom there is documentary proof of their involvement with the White House mutineers.

However, all that is hypothesis. At the moment one thing alone is clear: Given the lack of unity in the reform camp an increase in the number of opposition parties allowed to take part in the elections plays into its hands, by fragmenting and confusing the opposition.

Republican Party Officials Outline Platform

LD2910151693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow October 29 TASS—"The reason for the Russian Republican Party's accession to the Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin election bloc lies in the fact that the latter's programme and methods for achieving the end goals are very similar to those of the Republican Party," the leaders of the latter told a press conference here today.

"However, on the whole, our principles coincide also with the views of the Russia's Choice bloc," said Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, the party's co-chairman. "But we largely disagree with their methods of achieving the political goals," he added.

"We want to have a strong parliament, so that the executive branch of government would be sufficiently counterbalanced, and this is our main distinction from the position of the Russia's Choice bloc," the press conference was told by Vladimir Lysenko, another co-chairman of the party. However, he does not deem it necessary to reach agreement with the "Russia's Choice" bloc on many problems so as not to scatter the forces of the democrats and not to lose some seats in the future parliament to the united opposition.

The leaders of the Republican Party want the term of the future parliament not to exceed two years, after which new elections are to be held in fully legitimate conditions and in keeping with the new constitution.

They also expressed vigorous disapproval of the fact that government members will be able to hold parliament seats. "This means that they will write laws for themselves," Shostakovskiy noted.

Parties Accused of Election Campaigning Before Registration

MK2910125093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Oct 93 p 2

[Ivan Rodin report under the "Campaign" rubric: "Russian Federation Communist Party and Russian Democratic Reform Movement Do Not Rush to Central Electoral Commission. However, They Already Take Part in Election Campaigning on Television"]

[Text] Yesterday, the Party for Russian Unity and Accord [PRES] and the "Young Republicans" union received copies of their electoral lists and thus the right to collect signatures in their support. They turned out to be the 24th and 25th organizations that submitted applications to contest the elections. The Alliance of Russian Patriots' party list was not accepted, because this bloc was founded, in violation of the Regulation on Elections to the State Duma, by the People's Patriotic Party and the Union of Afghan War Veterans. The latter, being a public organization, was entitled to join only the already existing blocs formed by political parties. The People's Patriotic Party was asked to submit another list under its own name; the revised list will probably be registered today.

Yesterday, the Central Electoral Commission [CEC] did not receive the lists of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement and the Russian Federation Communist Party. They triggered a discussion, however, among CEC members: leaders of these parties, Anatoliy Sobchak and Gennadiy Zyuganov, together with Yegor Gaydar and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, were guests of the "Public Opinion" television program on Wednesday, in which they explicitly campaigned for themselves and thus broke the Regulation on Elections to the State Duma, which bans campaigning before electoral associations are registered after collecting 100,000 signatures. Yesterday, Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company, according to some reports, was to receive a letter from the CEC requesting that such violations of the law be avoided in the future. The party and bloc leaders, however, were not called candidates to the State Duma in the program and did the campaigning on their own initiative. Furthermore, the election campaign has been waged for some time already, and, for instance, a publication of any party activist's interview may be seen as part of it. At the same time, if television can be kept under control one way or another, requesting that independent publications, television, and radio stations forgo carrying or airing the views of political leaders will be evidently impossible.

Party Identities, Affiliations Summarized

LD3010225493

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 30 October carries the 40-minute "Contrasts" program presented by political commentator Nikolay Svanidze on the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Russia.

The program examines the present political scene in Russia, identifying the following as the main "leftwing" forces:

- Russia's Choice bloc, with leaders Yegor Gaydar, Sergey Kovalev, and Ella Pamfilova, and other leading figures including Vladimir Shumeyko, Boris Fedorov, and Andrey Kozyrev. Russia's Choice is made up of the Russia's Choice movement, the Democratic Russia movement, the Association of Privatized and Private Enterprises, the Party of Democratic Initiative led by Pavel Bunich, the Democratic Union led by Valeriya Novodvorskaya, and a number of other organizations;

- The Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms, with leaders Gavriil Popov and Anatoliy Sobchak;

- New Russia, with leaders Telman Gdlyan, Nikolay Ivanov, and Mikhail Bocharov;

- The August bloc, with leaders Konstantin Borovoy and Viktor Zolotarev;

- The Party of Russian Unity and Accord, with leaders Sergey Shakhray, Sergey Stankevich, and Aleksandr Shokhin, and leading figures including Aleksandr Kotenkov;

- The bloc set up by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Yuriy Boldyrev, and Vladimir Lukin;

- The Association of Independent Professionals, with leaders Andrey Nechayev and Petr Filippov.

The program next identifies the following forces representing The "Center":

- The Democratic Party, led by Nikolay Travkin;
- The Civic Union in the name of Stability, Justice, and Accord, with leaders Arkadiy Volskiy and Aleksandr Vladislavlev;
- The Consolidation Party, with leaders Aleksandr Tikhonov and Valeriy Neverov;
- The Agrarian Party, with leaders Mikhail Lapshin and Aleksandr Zaveryukha.

Finally, the following are identified as the "Opposition":

- The Communist Party of the Russian Federation, led by Gennadiy Zyuganov;
- The Socialist Party, with leaders Lyudmila Vartazarova and Roy Medvedev;
- The Party of Labor, led by Boris Kagarlitskiy;
- The Christian Democrats, with leaders Viktor Aksyuchits and Yuriy Vlasov;
- The Liberal Democratic Party, led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy;
- The Constitutional Democratic Party, led by Mikhail Astafyev;
- The National Republican Party, led by Nikolay Lysenko.

Government Officials Running in Elections Profiled

PM2910142993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Executive Authority En Route For Legislative Authority Elections"; each entry in list comprising this item is accompanied by photograph of respective candidate]

[Text] President Yeltsin is evidently distancing himself at the moment, not without reason, from all political movements, parties, and public associations. The members of his team, on the other hand, are actively voicing their political sympathies. Every day members of the government and members of the president's administration announce their intention to participate in the December Federal Assembly elections. The cabinet members and top state officials are currently distributed among the election associations as follows:

Yegor Gaydar, first vice premier of the Russian Government, heads the "Russia's Choice" bloc's list for the

elections to the Russian Federation State Duma. "Russia's Choice" is the election association of a number of democratic organizations, including the movement of that name headed by former Russian Federation people's deputy Sergey Kovalev; the "Democratic Russia" movement (Lev Ponomarev, Gleb Yakunin); Russian Peasants' Party (Yuriy Chernichenko); Association of Russian Peasant and Private Farms (Vladimir Bashmachnikov), and others. "Russia's Choice" is geared to liberal values: human rights, economic freedom, creation of a civil society. The election bloc's slogan is: "Freedom, Ownership, Rule of Law."

Yegor Gaydar, like many other leaders of the movement heading the bloc's list, will probably also run for the State Duma in one of the single-seat districts.

Vladimir Shumeyko, first vice premier of the Russian Government and Russian Federation press and information minister, was originally entered as no. 2 on the "Russia's Choice" bloc's list for the State Duma elections. But, according to the latest reports, he has expressed his intention to run for the upper chamber of parliament—the Federation Council.

Anatoliy Chubays, vice premier of the Russian Government and chairman of the Russian Federation State Property Committee, is running for the State Duma on the "Russia's Choice" bloc list. He is no. 4 on the federal list.

Boris Fedorov, vice premier of the Russian Government and Russian Federation finance minister, is running for the State Duma on the "Russia's Choice" bloc list. He is no. 6 on the federal list.

Ella Pamfilova, Russian Federation minister for the social protection of the population, is running for the State Duma on the "Russia's Choice" bloc list. She is no. 3 on the federal list.

Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Federation foreign minister, has been entered as no. 5 on the "Russia's Choice" bloc's federal list.

Aleksandr Zaveryukha, vice premier of the Russian Government, intends to run for the State Duma on the list of the agricultural workers' electoral bloc. The bloc comprises the Agrarian Party, the Russian Agrarian Union, and the Agro-Industrial Complex Workers' Trade Union. The bloc's program is geared to protecting the interests of agricultural producers and envisages the equality of all forms of land ownership and methods of land management. The Agrarian Bloc favors agriculture's gradual transition to the market and state support for the agrarian sector. The Agrarian Bloc will operate in the election campaign in accordance with the slogan: "Rule of law, justice, well-being."

Sergey Shakhray, vice premier of the Russian Government and chairman of the Russian Federation State Federation Committee, heads the Russian Unity and Accord Party [RUAP], founded in mid-October 1993. The RUAP is forming a list for the State Duma elections. The RUAP is reform-oriented, but it favors adjusting the course to take into account the interests of the regions. The RUAP advocates the ideas of state unity and intends to rely in its election campaign on the "pragmatists" among the regional leaders and representatives of industry, directors of major industrial enterprises, and major entrepreneurs. The party's election slogan is: "Unity through accord."

Aleksandr Shokhin, vice premier of the Russian Government, intends to run for the State Duma on the Russian Unity and Accord Party list.

Sergey Filatov, head of the Administration of the Russian Federation president, is running for the State Duma on the "Russia's Choice" election bloc's federal list, at no. 8.

Mikhail Poltoranin, head of the Federal Information Center, is running for the State Duma on the "Russia's Choice" list. He is no. 10 on the federal list.

Sergey Stankevich, political adviser to the Russian Federation president, plans to run for the State Duma on "Shakhray's party's" (RUAP) list, and, maybe, in one of the territorial districts.

Yekaterina Lakhova, adviser to the Russian Federation president for women's, family, and children's affairs, is no. 2 on the election list of the "Women of Russia" association, which comprises the Russian Women's Union, the Association of Women Entrepreneurs, and the Union of Navy Women. The "Women of Russia" election association's aim is to help get women involved in the organs of authority in order to get a more balanced, sensible, and peace-loving state policy.

Petr Filippov, head of the Center for the Analysis of Socioeconomic Policy under the president's administration, originally intended to participate in the "Russia's Choice" bloc's election campaign. But last week he set up the "Association of Independent Professionals," which has drawn up an independent list for the State Duma elections. The association intends to promote the election of highly skilled economic and legal specialists to the future parliament. Policy goals are: to continue and intensify the reforms, to fight for political and economic rights and freedoms, to reform the tax system, and so on. The election slogan is: "Responsibility, accord, order."

Eduard Dneprov, adviser to the Russian Federation president for education, is on the State Duma election list of the "Association of Independent Professionals."

Vladimir Kvasov, head of the Russian Council of Ministers apparatus, has been nominated State Duma candidate deputy by the RUAP Executive Committee. He will run in Moscow Oblast's No. 112 Orekhovo-Zuyevskiy Electoral District. Vladimir Kvasov was born 6 November 1936 in the city of Shatura, Moscow Oblast. He graduated from the Moscow Institute of the Petrochemical and Gas Industry in 1962. He spent many years

working in the USSR Government apparatus and in the "Gazprom" concern, and he has been head of the Russian Federation Council of Minister's apparatus since January 1993.

Russia's Choice Nominates State Duma Candidates for Moscow

LD3110094693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] A constituent conference of the Moscow Oblast regional organization of the Russia's Choice bloc has ended its work in Moscow. It nominated 31 candidates to the Moscow Oblast's Duma, 10 candidates to the State Duma, and 2 candidates to the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly. A RIA correspondent heard about this from Elvira Yastrebova, a member of the Coordination Council of the Moscow Oblast regional organization of the Democratic Russia movement.

Yuriy Chernichenko, chairman of the Peasant Party of Russia, and Yuriy Lyubashevskiy, president of the (?Dyagirev-center) Association, were nominated as candidates to the Federation Council from the Moscow Oblast bloc.

Yuriy Voronin Campaigning as Duma Candidate in Tatarstan

LD3110141393 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Exclusive information from NOVAYA VOLNA: While all the Russian detectives from the Internal Affairs and Security Ministries are literally tripping over themselves hunting all over the country for Yuriy Voronin, former deputy chairman of the country's former Supreme Soviet and former head of a department of the CPSU oblast committee, he, to the horror and indignation of the local administration, has turned up in Tatarstan. And for what purpose? To get the required number of signatures to put forward his nomination as candidate to the future State Duma.

Former Mossovet Chief Gonchar on Election Trail

MK3010122093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Oct 93 p 2

[Aleksey Kalmykov report under the "Elections" rubric: "Nikolay Gonchar Joins Campaign With an Idea To Hold Referendum on the Creation of an Economic Union"]

[Text] Former Mossovet Chairman Nikolay Gonchar has announced his intention to contest one of the seats in the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly in the two-candidate Moskovskiy electoral district. Appearing before scientists of the capital, he unveiled the main points of his electoral program. Its economic section includes two fundamental ideas—integration and development of the country's scientific and technological potential. Mr. Gonchar pointed to the need for a speedy restoration of the artificially severed economic links between the republics of the former USSR. He said the disintegration of the unified state was a result of the power struggle that led to an artificial division of the economy into Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, etc. economies, each of which is actually nonviable when detached from the others. Since, in the candidate's view, restoration of industry and the boosting of production are impossible without an economic union, he suggested that the question of creating it should be put to a referendum.

Mr. Gonchar's chances of winning a deputy seat in the Moskovskiy electoral district are rather good. He has already secured the support of a wide section of the Moscow electorate—scientists and engineers who pin on him their hopes for more funds from the budget to promote science. Mr. Gonchar named as his possible rivals men from the Russia's Choice bloc. Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, one of the most probable winners of the second seat, is now visiting Germany, and, as Nikolay Gonchar said in an interview for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, Luzhkov had no plans to run for the Federation Council before he left for Germany.

Nearly All District Electoral Commissions Formed

LD0111115093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] The process of forming district electoral commissions has been completed ahead of schedule in virtually all the constituent areas of the Russian Federation apart from the Chechen Republic, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the Central Electoral Committee. More than 100,000 district electoral commissions have been set up. They have to cope with the main burden of preparing for and holding the elections to the Federal Assembly, and also the nationwide Russian referendum on the draft of the new constitution. District commissions have already embarked on the painstaking work of amending and collating the lists of voters. They also have to deal with the formation of additional voters' lists and examine claims about mistakes and inaccuracies.

27 Electoral Blocs Authorizied To Collect Signatures

LD0111104893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0949 GMT 1 Nov 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow November 1 TASS—Anastasia Tur, member of the Russian Central Electoral Commission responsible for the coordination of the work of the commission with political parties and movements, has denied media reports alleging that 28 electoral blocs were authorized to collect signatures to federal lists of candidates.

On Monday, Tur told ITAR-TASS that in fact, copies of these lists had been given to 27 parties and electoral blocs. Russian communists, numbering 181 and led by Gennadiy Zyuganov, Vitaliy Sevastyanov and Viktor Illukhin, were the last to be put on the list of electoral blocs authorized to collect signatures.

According to Tur, there is only one application made by the "preobrazhenie" (transfiguration) political movement, which was not considered by the Central Electoral Commission yet. It was the last political movement to present to the commission a list of its candidates running for elections to the duma.

When asked if the period of collecting signatures can be extended, Tur answered in the negative, saying that according to the statute on elections, the deadline for collecting signatures expires on November 7.

International, U.S. Experts To Assist, Monitor Elections

LD3010154893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1357 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Drafted by the Central Electoral Commission, a regulation on international observers has been coordinated with the Foreign Ministry and Institute of State, and its copies will be sent today to the UN, G7 countries, NATO, CSCE, the Northern Council, the Council of Europe, and Europarliament.

The Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov announced at a working session on Friday [29 October] that the U.S. Embassy had informed the commission that U.S. electoral experts would arrive in Russia to assist the election campaign and monitor parliamentary elections on December 12.

In his words, work will be completed on Saturday on rules for giving free time on radio and television to parties and blocs to outline their election programs.

It was reported that as of Tuesday graphologists and other specialists would start checking the subscription lists, submitted by parties and blocs in support of their candidates to State Duma.

By Saturday, 27 blocs and parties had sent their lists of candidates, totalling over 3800 nominees.

Timetable for Election Preparations Issued

PM0111100193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission "Timetable for Elections to Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council and State Duma"]

[Text] **Membership of Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission**

Chairman: Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov (tel 203-33-21)

Deputy Chairman: Aleksandr Vladimirovich Ivanchenko (tel 203-62-09)

Members of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission:

1) for liaison [vzaimodeystviye] with district commissions
Andrey Georgiyevich Beloborodov (tel 203-55-45)
Vladimir Ivanovich Yemelyanov
Viktor Stepanovich Karpunov

2) for liaison with electoral alliances putting forward federal lists of candidates
Sergey Petrovich Korovinskikh (tel 203-80-89)
Valeriy Evaldovich Krasnyanskiy
Anastasiya Ivanovna Tur
Liliya Zaudinovna Vikhlyantseva

3) for questions of financing the elections
Valeriy Andreyevich Bagin (tel 203-54-87)
Revomir Bayarovich Garmayev

4) for logistical support for the elections
Petr Ivanovich Zhigaltsov (tel 203-80-87)
Aleksandr Sanchayevich Oorzhak

5) for liaison with the press
Raif Terentyevich Biktagirov (tel 203-55-45)
Yuriy Vasilyevich Tarabasov (tel 203-53-39)

6) for the preparation of instructions and documents

Tatyana Dmitriyevna Zrazhevskaya (tel 203-90-70)
Larisa Yefremovna Tkachenko
Margarita Aleksandrovna Kuznetsova

7) for liaison with federal organs of power, ministries, departments, and representative and executive organs of power in the Federation components
Valeriy Petrovich Naumov (tel 203-87-25)

Main Dates in Preparing and Holding the Elections (Footnote: The heading "Implementation Date" indicates the last day [or period] on which the process in question must be completed)

[The following reproduces in narrative form information originally formatted as a four-column table, with "a)" representing the column headed "Implementation Date."
"b)" the column headed "Name of Process."
"c)" the column headed "Statute on Elections,"
and "d)" the column headed "Note." Not all entries in the table have a "Note" field]

a) 29 Sep
b) Approval of the membership of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission
c) Edict No 1505 of the Russian Federation President dated 29 September 1993, and also Article 13 Point 1
d) There are 21 members

a) 12 Oct

b) Approval and publication of chart of single-seat electoral districts
c) Article 8 Point 3
d) The chart includes 225 districts

a) 22-27 Oct (Footnote) (For elections of Federation Council deputies [Statute on Elections to the Federation Council, Article 12 Point 2])
b) Formation of district electoral commissions
c) Article 14 Point 2
d) Comprising a chairman and 12-18 (8-12 (Footnote) (For elections of Federation Council deputies [Statute on Elections to the Federation Council, Article 12 Point 2]] members;

a) 27 Oct
b) Formation of electoral wards
c) Article 14 point 1
d) They are formed by decisions of the heads of administration of rayons, cities, and urban rayons;

a) 27 Oct
b) Appointment of members of district electoral commissions by Central Electoral Commission
c) Article 10 Point 3
d) In the event that organs in the Russian Federation component did not put forward candidates for membership of the district electoral commission within the prescribed time, that is, up to 22 October inclusive

a) 29 Oct
b) Publication of list of electoral wards indicating the addresses of the district electoral commissions and with a diagram appended
c) Article 10 Point 3
d) This is published by the administration head in the local press within three days and published as a poster within 10 days

a) 1 Nov
b) Formation of ward electoral commissions
c) Article 15 Point 1
d) Comprising a chairman and 6-18 commission members

a) 6 Nov
b) Appointment of members of ward electoral commissions
c) Article 15 Point 2
d) In the event that organs at the relevant level have not put forward candidates for the ward electoral commission

a) 6 Nov
b) Submission to Central Electoral Commission by electoral alliances of federal lists of candidates with signature sheets (Footnote) (The collection of voters' signatures for registration of the federal list of candidate State Duma deputies begins from the day electoral alliances submit to the Central Electoral Commission the list of candidates and a certified copy of it is issued) and statements from the candidates that they agree to run for election on this list
c) Article 23 Point 10
d) The lists may be submitted until 1700

a) 11 Nov
b) Registration and official publication by the Central Electoral Commission of the lists of candidates running for the federal district
c) Article 23 Point 10
d) The lists are published in the Central Electoral Commission bulletin

a) 11 Nov
b) Final clarification of the electoral roll for the voting
c) Article 11 Point 2

a) 13 Nov
b) Release to the central mass news media of the registered federal lists of candidates
c) Article 23 Point 10

a) 14 Nov
b) Submission to the district electoral commission of signature sheets (Footnote) (The collection of signatures from voters for the registration of candidate deputies for single-seat electoral districts begins from the day the district electoral commission is formed) and statements by the candidate deputies for single-seat districts that they agree to run for the electoral district in question
c) Article 24 Point 5
d) Signature sheets and statements by candidate Federation Council deputies are submitted for registration to the district electoral commission on the same date

a) 19 Nov
b) Registration by the district electoral commission of the candidate deputies for single-seat electoral districts and the publication of information about them
c) Article 24 Point 5
d) The information is released to the mass media. The registration of candidate Federation Council deputies takes place on the same date

a) 21 Nov
b) Dispatch to district electoral commissions of ballot papers for the elections for the federal district
c) Article 35 Point 6

a) 27 Nov-7 Dec
b) Period of early voting at district electoral commission's office
c) Article 36 Point 2
d) Voting takes place only if the voter, as from 15 days before election day, will not be at his place of permanent residence

a) 2 Dec
b) Ban on publishing results of public opinion polls relating to the upcoming elections comes into force
c) Article 26 Point 1

a) 8 Dec
b) Ward electoral commissions receive from district electoral commissions ballot papers for elections to State Duma for federal and single-seat electoral districts

c) Article 35 Point 6

a) 8 Dec-11 Dec
b) Period of early voting at ward electoral commission's office
c) Article 36 Point 2
d) Voting takes place only if the voter, as from three days before election day, will not be at his place of permanent residence

a) 12 Dec
b) Voters cast their votes on election day
c) Article 36 Point 1
d) Voting takes place from 0800 to 2200 local time

a) 18 Dec 1993
b) The relevant electoral commission publishes the results of elections for the electoral district
c) Article 41 Point 2

a) 11 Jan 1994
b) Central Electoral Commission determines and publishes the overall results of the elections
c) Article 40 Point 1
d) No later than one month after the elections

Address of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission: 103025, Moscow, 19 Novyy Arbat Street; for telegrams—Moscow 25. Office telephone number 202-53-17; fax (095) 203-79-32.

Black Sea Fleet Men May Vote, Questions Remain

MK3010131093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed report in the "Crimea" column]

[Text] According to information from reliable sources, the Central Electoral Commission on elections to the State Duma and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation has made a decision on participation by Black Sea Fleet servicemen in the 12 December voting.

The voting Black Sea Fleet servicemen have been registered in the Orekhovo-Zuyevo election district. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent failed to find out whether all the servicemen will take part in the voting—after all, half the Fleet's conscripts have sworn their loyalty to the people of Ukraine.

Sources close to the Black Sea Fleet Command say there is concern that the civilian status of Black Sea Fleet admirals, commissioned officers, and petty and warrant officers has not been defined yet. They themselves do not know which state's citizens they are—Russia's or Ukraine's.

Voting Commission Head Urges Lowering Signature Threshold

MK3010124093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 30 Oct 93 p 3

[Larisa Yevtushik report under "Central Electoral Commission Proposes a Revision of the Election Statute" rubric: "Nikolay Ryabov Intent on Restoring Justice"]

[Text] Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission [CEC], said that the commission intends to ask President Boris Yeltsin to lower the established quota of signatures for registering candidate deputies to the Federation Council.

According to Nikolay Ryabov, at present the candidates nominated in two-seat constituencies to the Federation Council are placed in unequal conditions since there is a big difference in population density in the regions. Therefore the CEC recommends to the president to establish a norm for registering a deputy candidate at 25,000 signatures for Federation components with a population between 2.5 million and 4 million, and 35,000 for components with a population over 4 million. Ryabov said that the previous quota of 1 percent of signatures has remained for candidate deputies to the lower parliament chamber—the State Duma—in single-seat constituencies.

The CEC head noted that the quota of 100,000 signatures for registering party lists of candidates to the State Duma is also to stay the same. On 4 November the CEC chairman is planning to meet with leaders of parties and public associations that have expressed a wish to take part in the upcoming elections. There, Nikolay Ryabov is once again going to recall the election regulations so that "there is no misunderstanding in the future."

Government Apparatus Accused of 'Simulating Neutrality'

MK2910102093 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 15/17, 29 Oct-4 Nov 93 p 8

[Report by Gleb Pavlovskiy, former POSTFACTUM editor in chief, under the "Hamburg Assessment" rubric: "Winners Have Been Appointed—What Is Left Is To Vote? (From the File of the 'Free Elections' Group)"]

[Text] **Conductors**

Three government electoral blocs have already been formed—in the best traditions of President al-Nasr, who, as is well known, also had three blocs—the government majority, the government left-wing opposition, and the government right-wing opposition.

It would be useful for a voter to know how manipulation-prone political blocs, for which he is called on to vote, are being designed deep inside the administrative apparatus. Here is a quotation from the document No. A26-417 by the Presidential Administration's Analytical

General Policy Center: "On the whole, the "Russia's Choice" bloc is ...e most influential in the regions. It should be taken into account that... manifestations of serious differences, disagreements, and even a split are possible inside it (...) The democrats' organizational edge cannot be presently seen as a solid guarantee of their victory... Given this, it appears extremely advisable... to start forming a neutral, albeit one loyal to the president, electoral bloc for the purpose of optimizing electoral processes in the regions."

Political scientists will probably guess correctly which of the two blocs—Mr. Shakhray's or Mr. Sobchak's—was tasked with "optimizing the elections" by simulating "neutrality." It is clear, however, that we are witnessing an effort being undertaken in a cold-blooded and dynamic fashion to misinform the Russian population en masse.

Who Is Still Speaking About Legality?

At present, there is no longer a single political bloc or a party left that failed to note—with indignation or with passing sorrow—that the ongoing elections are not democratic. Typically, this observation serves as a pretext rather for melancholy than for a refusal to play the game. Parties are contesting the elections, but do not see this as participation in a democratic process.

Marina Salye, cochairman of the Free Democratic Party of Russia, thinks that presently any genuinely democratic elections are out of the question, because a plethora of "government," not even "presidential," blocs have already been formalized. A scandal flared up at a meeting of the Public Chamber of the Constitutional Conference on 19 October. Representatives of the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR] voiced a protest against the violation of the principle of the separation of powers by giving ministers (government members) the right to run for the State Duma and the Council of the Federation, after which they walked out of the Constitutional Conference.

That same day, 19 October, Konstantin Borovoy, cochairman of the Economic Freedom Party, announced at a press conference that "communo-democracy is little different from communo-fascism." "It is clear right now that all blocs that are not part of the allied contingent of "Russia's Choice," including our bloc, will have to conduct the election campaign in unfair conditions," Konstantin Borovoy believes.

Gavriil Popov, leader of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement, in a direct address to Vladimir Shumeyko presumed that the latter needed an election to the parliament in order not to be summoned to the prosecutor's office, and expressed his negative attitude to the fact that "Russia's Choice" had already turned into a government party.

Vladimir Shumeyko would not even think of denying this. Responding to Gavriil Popov's charges, he said: "Yes, we have already become a government party."

Elections have not yet been held, but the party governs already.

Question

A question arises: Does it make any sense at all to "monitor elections:"

—which are considered legitimate neither by the side that conducts them, nor their contestants, who cite practical considerations as reasons for their actions;

—the rules of which have been initially designed to suit one side, controlled by it, and can be changed in the process should they be found insufficiently advantageous?

We know that a number of international organizations have already expressed off the record their intention to refrain from sending their observers not to be even indirectly responsible for legitimizing them.

Many people in Russia realize that "stronger" forms of civil consolidation are needed than control for the observance of initially unlawful procedures. This view has so far been countered by the "formalists" who believe that even outright arbitrariness should not be given a free hand. This question is currently being considered by Russian human rights activists.

Constitutional Conference Issues

Constitutional Conference Supports Proposal on Yeltsin

LD3010170593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1357 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] On Saturday [30 October] in the Kremlin the Public Chamber of the Constitutional Conference [CC] proceeded with consideration of amendments to the draft constitution. About 80 people participate in the sitting, that is one-third of the Public Chamber's members.

The chamber has supported the proposal of the CC working group headed by the leader of the presidential administration Sergey Filatov who has said that the RF president should appoint the government's chairman with the consent of the State Duma (Articles 83 and 102 of the draft constitution).

Anatoliy Sobchak, the coordinator of the Public Chamber, clings to an opposite opinion; he said that this provision in the Constitution "will sharply strengthen the president's position placing him higher than the figure of the constitutional monarch" and this is "dangerous for democracy." Sobchak believes that the wording approved by the Constitutional Conference on July 12, 1993 should remain in the Constitution, it, particularly, says: "The president of the Russian Federation presents a proposal on the appointment of the chairman of the RF government to the State ."

45 people voted for the proposal of Filatov's working group, 29 - against and 1 abstained from voting. "We are on the threshold of approving autocracy," said Sobchak commenting results of the voting.

This resolution means that the presidents [as received] but not the State Duma makes a decision about the government's resignation.

The Public Chamber has also excluded a provision stating that the deputies of the Federation Council and deputies of the State Duma cannot be drawn to legal responsibility for their opinion voiced publicly, for their positions during voting, and other acts corresponding to the status of a deputy even after his authorities expire. In addition, it made a decision not to create military and extraordinary courts. A provision on non-changeability of lawyers has also been excluded from the draft constitution.

Appeals to Yeltsin

LD3010205193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The Public Chamber of the Constitutional Conference appealed to the Russian president today. This document, the Russian Information Agency reports, contains recommendations to regard the Chamber as a standing body under the president and to consolidate the status of its members by an enforceable enactment. Also the chamber recommended Boris Yeltsin to agree to the amendments and addenda drawn up by the working group for incorporation in the text of the country's draft constitution approved by the Constitutional Conference in July.

At the same time, the Public Chamber of the Constitutional Conference invited its working group to complete the preparation of the draft constitution and to recommend the draft to the Russian president for publication.

'Expert' Says Conference Draft Should Undergo Vote

PM0111103593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Oct 93 p 2

[Article by Constitutional Conference expert Yevgeniy Ikhlov: "An Unfinished Social Edifice Can Still Collapse. The Fifth State Duma and Russian Statehood"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Russia is united by the freely expressed will of its peoples, not by the whim of "Soviet" figures who have today succumbed to persuasion to sign the Federation Treaty, but will tomorrow capriciously stamp their feet and say: "I am going to leave the Federation and create a new republic—so there!"

That is why it is so essential to hold the elections as soon as possible and, together with the Duma elections, carry out municipal reforms so that the democratic Duma does not hover over a system of soviets or appointed governors. Before the city dumas, local councils, and assemblies of the members of the Federation are elected, immediate steps must be taken to fill the vacuum that formed following the elimination of the soviets by appointing local and regional deputies who supported the president to the posts of municipal advisers under the administration chiefs and to create local "public chambers" that would be able to reflect the interests of society, preventing a descent into authoritarianism.

During the presidential elections a senate—the Federation Council—will be elected. Sure, it is very good that one-half rather than one-third of the Duma is being allocated to representatives of all-Russian organizations and associations, but it is all the more important that this is being compensated for by direct representation of the population of Federation components in the upper chamber of the Federal Assembly.

The increased quota for those elected on party lists and the holding of elections to local and regional organs of power partly relieve the massive pressure on those who "aspire" to the election lists and restore the requisite proportion between party bosses and professionals in the sphere of lawmaking in the Duma. It is necessary also to create conditions for the full representation of all social strata and ideological platforms in parliament. It will then be possible to create full-fledged factions and they will attract people who have been elected on an individual basis.

The Duma must not be a "Duma of winners," it must be a "Duma of all the Russians." Better to have a hard struggle during the election campaign than to have a parliament elected by 20 percent of the voters. Democracy must demonstrate to everyone, including its opponents, that it sought honest elections on the basis of free competition between ideas and politicians and not a breakthrough in parliament supported by tanks and commandos. It is also necessary to complete the constitutional process. Since there exists a draft supported by the majority of Constitutional Conference participants, part of which is already being implemented under Edict No. 1400, other sections, in particular the principles of the constitutional system and the civil and political rights sections, could be turned into a "Basic Law of the Russian Federation" and made the subject of the referendum conducted simultaneously with the State Duma elections. If adopted it will operate until the constitution is finally adopted. The Duma, in conjunction with the Federation Council, can adopt (by a two-thirds majority) constitutional laws developing the provisions of the "Basic Law." All this is necessary so that the parliamentarians entering the Duma do not start "reinventing the wheel," by discarding the work of the Constitutional Conference and wallowing happily in draft constitutions, and do not postpone other legislative activity. Then the final text of the new constitution can be adopted by means of ratification by a qualified majority of the representative bodies of the Federation of the version that is adopted by the Duma and the Federation Council. All this will ensure that the constitution is legitimate enough and will confirm the federal form of Russian

statehood, since it will have the support of both the majority of representatives of the whole of Russian society and of the regions' representatives.

The adoption of the constitution and elections on a democratic basis to all organs of power will complete the establishment of Russian statehood, finish the construction of the edifice from top to bottom, and end the discord.

Media Issues

PRAVDA To Retain Name, To Reappear 2 Nov

LD3010212193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] This coming Tuesday [2 November] should be the day for the PRAVDA newspaper's latest revival. Meanwhile, there have been major changes to its staff. At recent elections for a new editor-in-chief, Viktor Alekseyevich Linnik, one of PRAVDA's old faithfuls, scored a very convincing victory. What will become of PRAVDA now? Over to our colleague:

[Linnik] First, I would like to say that PRAVDA's name will not change. I am glad that we defended it in spite of the—shall we say—proposals made to us by the press ministry. I am glad that we found mutual understanding with the ministry on this issue.

The newspaper has already changed, and I think it will continue to change together with its readership. We see our first duty today as being to our readership. We must inform them honestly and objectively about life as we see it. I think that we will be a newspaper of civilized opposition, which acts within the framework of the law, which supports social justice and full human rights—social, political and economic.

RIA-Novosti Chairman on Agency's Aims, Priorities

LD3110161793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Interview with Vladimir Markov, chairman of the RIA-Novosti news agency by observer Yuliy Semenov; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Markov] One and a half months ago I was appointed as chairman of the board of the RIA-Novosti agency. We differ, of course, and have traditionally differed, from all other agencies in that the APN [Agenstvo Pechati Novosti agency, merged with RIA in 1991] performed certain tasks in providing informational support for our state's foreign policy, and it seems to me that it was a big mistake to give up the services of APN in the sphere of informational support for Russia's foreign policy, as happened unfortunately two years ago. Now, I think, this mistake has been realized by everyone and we are being given the duty of seeing that Russia has a worthy image abroad. This is a specific task, but none of the other agencies can make such a good job of it as us.

[Semenov] What possibilities do you see in this respect for cooperation with Mayak, which has its own network of correspondents and potential to cover the life of Russia.

[Markov] Mayak is also an important source of information for us. Inasmuch as Mayak is a most up-to-the-minute medium, it is very useful to listen to Mayak and provide Mayak with our news. I hope that there will be more such RIA-Novosti news on Mayak.

[Semenov] You have probably already touched upon some of the points of the program that you are taking to the board as its new chief.

[Markov] We will have two main areas of work. The first is having a strong competitive news service, and the second is our work in the sphere of public relations and providing informational assistance for our new political parties. This is a vast sphere that has not yet been fully developed. We at the RIA-Novosti agency now have every opportunity to become a major focal point of information in Russia, since we have television, a news service, a wonderful photographic service, and everything needed to become a leading information center in the country.

[Semenov] A final question. A discussion is now under way in the Russian media, especially on the threshold of the elections, about attempts to revive press supervision and censorship, the political imperative, and so on. Do you and your colleagues all feel sufficiently free in this regard?

[Markov] I think that those complications that were to be observed in connection with the events at the end of September and the beginning of October are surmountable, and it seems to me that those leaders who attempted to introduce censorship now understand that this must not be done. It seems to me that we have good opportunities to work professionally and to enhance our professionalism.

[Semenov] I thank you.

[Markov] Thank you.

Regional Affairs

Sverdlovsk Oblast Head Announces 'Urals Republic'

LD3110174593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 31 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Events took a sudden and rapid turn in Sverdlovsk Oblast today. At about 1730, Russia's Radio and

the Second Television channel were interrupted. Eduard Rossel, the head of administration of Sverdlovsk Oblast, came on the air to announce that the Constitution of the Urals Republic had come into force. Sverdlovsk Oblast is becoming a republic, and he, Eduard Rossel, is assuming the duties of governor of the self-proclaimed republic.

True, Eduard Rossel stressed that the Urals Constitution acknowledges the supremacy of the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation; but at the same time, it confirms the equal rights of the component parts [subyekty] of the federation and will set an example for other regions on the correct approach to federalism.

Time will tell where such a forced pace with regard to the highly complex issue of balancing the status of the component parts of the federation will lead. However, the calm tone of the discussion that had started to take shape will be wrecked. What is more, one should clearly not set any hopes on the president's patience. One of his latest edicts, in which he set out his actions with regard to those who violate Russia's tranquillity, in particular those who have refused to pay taxes to the federal budget, speaks for itself. And decisive action will clearly follow in the very near future with respect to the Urals region, which has proclaimed its own sovereignty.

Oblast Chief Interviewed

LD3110222393

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 31 October in its "Voskresenye" program carries a three-minute report by correspondent Vladimir Perfilyev on the situation in the Urals.

Perfilyev begins by saying that the powerful industrial region of the Urals is gradually becoming an increasingly influential force in deciding how Russia is to be run—on the principle of its nationalities or on the territorial principle. He goes on to interview E. E. Rossel, the head of the Sverdlovsk Oblast administration. Rossel says: "Sverdlovsk Oblast with its unrivalled industrial and intellectual potential cannot be placed lower than other Russian republics. It is the only republic in our Russian Federation which is set up on the basis of the territorial principle, the the way Russia lived prior to 1917. We have 120 nationalities in our republics. All of them are equally protected. The Russian laws, our laws, are the main laws for us and they are being observed on the territory of the Urals republic." Asked whether this would affect the republican economy, he declares: "When I am talking about the republic, the aim is not to make a unilateral, so to speak, decision not to pay taxes or something else. We have one locomotive at present—the Government of Russia—and 89 components of the Russian Federation are half-empty carriages. Here we have 89 locomotives emerging which are pulling the entire state. This is the essence of the principle." Perfilyev asks: "Are you not afraid that Moscow will bang its fist and say this is not allowed?" Rossel responds: "I think that people who understand this issue will not do this, will not do this. The most important thing today is to accomplish real things, real deeds and the people understand this."

Shakhray Criticizes Proclamation

LD2910232793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Deputy head of the Russian Government Sergey Shakhray has spoken critically about Sverdlovsk Oblast's proclaiming itself the so-called Urals Republic. Sergey Shakhray said in an interview with INTERFAX that this step appears to be an attempt to preserve the power relations existing in the oblast and to settle economic issues by political means. In Sergey Shakhray's opinion, the federal bodies of power will not recognize the Urals Republic.

Constitutional Court: Move 'Inadmissible'

LD3010154193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1357 GMT 30 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, October 30 (TASS)—"The public chamber regards spontaneous emergence of republics as inadmissible. Picking up speed, these centrifugal forces will lead to Russia's collapse and territorial strife," is a recommendation adopted by the public chamber of the Constitutional Conference at its meeting on Saturday with respect to a decision by the Sverdlovsk Regional Council of October 27.

The public chamber recommended that the Russian president "should immediately take urgent and comprehensive measures to preserve the status of the Federation's members, provided for by the Russian Constitution which was worked out by the Constitutional Conference".

The chamber also believes it necessary to provide for the procedure and conditions for changing the status of any member of the Russian Federation in the final version of the fundamental law.

Challenges to Center Viewed

MK3010130093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Oct 93 p 3

[Vitaliy Portnikov report in the "Opinion" column: "The Urals Republic Has Been Proclaimed. The Struggle of the Elites Grows Tougher"]

[Text] So, the Sverdlovsk Oblast Soviet has after all dared to take a step that was hardly expected after the October standoff between the power branches: the Urals Republic has been proclaimed; its constitution has been put into effect; and Governor Eduard Rossel, head of the newly created entity, has assessed the event as "a method of building a single Russian state." Moscow, of course,

may not agree with such a "method," but it clearly shows to the Kremlin the unwillingness of the regional elites to obey the preelection dictate from the central authorities. Those holding a session in Yekaterinburg are just the same kind of trailblazers for the oblasts and krays as those holding a session in Kazan are for the Russian republics. And the fact that the trailblazers do not wish to stifle their own trend shows that they still have forces and connections. After all, to undertake such a reckless adventure after the October events is madness, pure and simple, not justified even by their remoteness from Moscow. This decision, apart from other things, proves that in addition to Governor Eduard Rossel's personal ambitions, the actions of the Sverdlovsk political elite also have a certain purpose.

Indicative in this respect is Moscow's reaction to Yekaterinburg's demarche. Or rather, the absence of reaction, if one discounts the tough statements by Nikolay Medvedev, chief of the Russian presidential administration's Directorate for Liaison with the Territories; the statements are in essence the continuation of the course pursued in the White House by this former deputy of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. The president himself hardly has any reason to quarrel seriously with the really influential regional elites (including in his native region), especially since the Sverdlovsk Soviet, having announced elections to the new regional power body, has made its dissolution by a presidential edict senseless.

At the same time it is clear that the proclamation of the Urals Republic cannot but lead to the strengthening of unitarist trends in the presidential team. And here the tough-worded statements by Nikolay Medvedev, who is proposing to rescind the latest decision of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Soviet and to dissolve the soviet itself, echo the initiative of Leonid Smirnyagin, a member of the Presidential Council, who has worked out a "Declaration on the State Integrity of Russia." This "declaration of prohibitions" in its good intentions reminds one of a "referendum of prohibitions"—the referendum on the preservation of the USSR which was so successful but did not bring any concrete results.

Instead of producing effective rhetorical documents, the presidential team should realize what we are dealing with when we talk about federalization or even partial confederation of Russia—the ambitions of leaders or the mood of the masses. In the final analysis the center exists in order to respond to the interests of the regions, not to impose its will on them. And the continuing struggle between the central authorities and the local elites only demonstrates that both the "upper" and the regional echelons of power continue to look at the country's future not as a complex process of searching for and finding mutually acceptable options, but as a gripping political match in which there must necessarily be losers and winners.

Views of Sovereignty in Bashkiria Examined

PM0111121193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Iosif Galperin article: "Chronicle of the Diving Soviet. How Bashkortostan Is Fighting 'Capitalist Encirclement'"]

[Text] Ufa-Moscow—The day before, the republic had celebrated the third anniversary of the Declaration of State Sovereignty in a fitting way—with fairs, a ceremonial session, the obligatory special editions of newspapers, and the handing out of prizes and awards. And then a Supreme Soviet session was held—for one day. The deputies repealed the previous decision to support the Moscow White House, appointed a commission for the organization of new elections to its own White House in Ufa, adopted a national emblem and anthem of the Republic of Bashkortostan, ratified amendments to the Constitution and edicts of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and adopted several new laws. The folder which contained the documents awaiting ratification at the session was as fat as three work-hardened fingers. The deputies coped, however—they voted for everything within a few hours.

A few excerpts from this "everything": "The organs of the Republic of Bashkortostan Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Republic of Bashkortostan Ministry of Security, and the Republic of Bashkortostan Department for Tax Assstance have the right: a) to examine buildings and premises of enterprises, institutions, and organizations irrespective of the form of ownership... b) to detain active group members and individuals suspected of committing serious crimes for a period of up to 30 days, having notified the prosecutor within 24 hours." All right, those who are suspected of serious crimes—the majority do not put themselves in this category. But even officials who are suspected of violating "administrative procedure" can wind up in prison. If a traffic cop comes into the office (he is after all someone from the "organs"), and you do not show him the papers he is interested in, then you will pay a fine at least.

Since, clearly, no organ has enough manpower to ensure the observance of all bans, the rights of the "public-spirited institutions" and "social preventive centers in residential areas" will be extended. That is, the area of administrative petty tyranny has been extended—now human rights and all-Russian laws can be violated wholesale. If you put a ruble on a game of preference, you pay a fine, if you bet your neighbor 100 rubles that "Spartak" will win, then administrative proceedings will be instituted against you, since there is an article which prohibits "the acceptance of bets by private individuals." I asked Yuriy Demin, first deputy chairman of the Republic of Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet, whether adopting such edicts is not a violation of the three-year-old declaration, which contained a promise to observe international norms. "This is a way of restricting

criminal elements. People have reacted to this with understanding," Yuriy Sergeyevich answered.

The word "restricting" also applies to other edicts which regulate in a new way not so much the personal life of citizens as the economy. There is the same suspicion to enterprises here as to teenagers drinking and playing "find-the-lady" (see edict "On Strengthening...") during a Bashkir language test. For example? "An unjustified refusal by enterprises and organizations, irrespective of form of ownership and departmental control, to conclude contracts for the supply of output (goods) according to the procedure envisaged in valid republic legislation...entails a fine imposed on the guilty officials...." If you do not want to come to an agreement with us—we will force you to. Compulsory supplies—are they not robbery? And again: "...to ban: leaders, their deputies, and other officials in organs of state power and administration from involvement in entrepreneurial activity, and from giving any assistance not stipulated by law to individuals and legal entities by using their official position to carry out entrepreneurial activity...." I wonder whether the law makes provision for officials discussing a contract in a bathhouse? Or, for example, does your official position allow you to get a ride to work in a private taxi, thereby assisting entrepreneurship?

Where are the limits? And indeed, is it possible to establish them administratively in an economy which combines state monopoly management with the goal of exporting raw materials and semifinished articles? Of course, by this edict you can put a boss who did not obey the "lawful demand or directive" of a policeman, official, or volunteer militiaman into prison for 30 days, but how can you force people to work efficiently? With the help of such measures you can only tie the hands of those who want to work. Although Yuriy Sergeyevich Demin thinks:

"We do not intend to let everything out of our hands, the state intervenes in the economy everywhere. These are temporary measures, and those who work conscientiously have nothing to fear."

So, the economy must be coercive, and its subjects are just some suspicious subjects or other, nothing like the components of the Federation. There's no standing on ceremony: By a decision of the Supreme Soviet of Bashkortostan you can just go and form a petrochemical company from enterprises where the state's share of the authorized capital made up less than half, and then by your decree you can take away from the labor collectives the controlling packages of voting shares.

Just think, the shares! The republic authorities can "amalgamate" all centralized credits in the Bashkortostan Credit Bank in order to distribute them later themselves, they can take profits from enterprises and channel the money into what they want to channel it into, and they can command people to sell herbicides, gasoline, and diesel fuel to kolkhozes and sovkhozes [collective and state farms] at prices lower than cost. And it does not matter that, in this way, first of all industrial labor is devalued and agricultural labor is made uneconomical, and second, that rural administrators are being encouraged to speculate in the cheap scarce goods. The main thing is to show yourself to be a good master who without any supervision—such as from Moscow in the past—can cope with subsidies, credits, benefits, and customs house. But if Moscow did not cope with this role of single master, why then does Ufa think it can run the economy outside the laws of economics?

Indeed, on 25 April 1993 75 percent of those who took part in the referendum voted in favor of the economic sovereignty of Bashkortostan. But what does this mean if—as R.I. Nigmatulin, leader of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Ufa Scientific Center, admitted at the ceremonial session—the republic is capable of extracting only 20 million tonnes of petroleum a year (let us add: poor quality, contains water, and even 20 is wishful thinking) but capable of refining 60 million? Can you talk of sovereignty if you are being fed from the Tyumen pipeline? Can you demand from Moscow investments in long-term conversion and environmental programs and then channel them into the "black hole" of the kolkhozes?

And what about national and political sovereignty? Twenty-two percent of the republic's population are Bashkiris, but they have tried to make study of the Bashkir language obligatory here! It is scarcely permissible to talk of an autonomous policy when you are haggling with both branches of Russian power, latching onto the one that seems stronger at the time.

An extraordinary session of the Republic of Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet will convene at the beginning of November, incidentally. The law on the president has long been ready, the law on the election of the president too, so they will go and vote 12 December to elect the president of Bashkortostan. And it is clear who is the favorite and why: Who gave the rayons other people's money, who is ensuring low prices by means of subsidies (eating through the necessary investments in the reconstruction of the petrochemical industry)? Supreme Soviet Chairman Murtaza Gubaydullovich Rakhimov. It does not matter that during the month of campaign fever the contenders will be unable to utter a word, because Moscow will no longer be able to say that Ufa does not have a nationally elected head of the executive and that a representative of the Russian president will have to be sent there.

And indeed, how can the center intervene in the single area of legal anarchy? I could hand this fat package of what are to my mind absurd edicts to the Russian Ministry of Justice. And what then? The components of the Federation are not disposed toward equality before the law. It transpires that the federal state does not protect the citizen from the tyranny of mischief-making components. And, offended by proposals about a possible constitutional single norm, M.G. Rakhimov in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA threatens

that Russia will split. It is not enough for him that with his diplomacy he has inflated Ruslan Khasbulatov's self-importance, that with his edicts he has made real the Khasbulatovian utopian system of state monopoly populism. Now, threatening and retreating, soviet power in Bashkortostan wants to establish itself under the presidential staff of authority. This is how Yu.S. Demin reasons:

"Lenin said that a socialist state is possible in a capitalist encirclement, but we are too small a republic, we must take the real situation into account and really reform ourselves."

But what can we think if even on the newly ratified national emblem Salavat Yulayev has turned out to be a left-hander and the sun is rising in the West! Yes, the Bashkir soviets are prepared for reforms—but only those which will help them retain their seats.

Tatarstan Cautions Former Deputies on New Candidacy

LD0111114993 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0830 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] I will start with a report that we have just received from our special correspondent who is in Tatarstan at present. Let me remind you that yesterday, in the "Sunday New Wave" program, we reported that Yuriy Voronin, the former deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, has turned up in the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan and has started collecting signatures for him to stand as a deputy to the State Duma.

In connection with these and certain other facts, the press center of the Tatarstan president has made the following statement, and I quote: It has become known that in the course of the election campaign to the Russian Federal Assembly, several former Russian people's deputies have started collecting signatures in the Republic of Tatarstan for their nomination as candidates for deputy posts. In this connection, the state power bodies of Tatarstan are receiving numerous appeals from the public asking, in some confusion, what to do in such cases and asking why the Russian official authorities do not give any explanations or any appraisal of the behavior of these individuals during the events on 3-4 October in Moscow. In the present situation, the official bodies of the Republic of Tatarstan suggest that the former Russian deputies from the Republic of Tatarstan should refrain from nominating themselves for election to elected bodies of the Russian Federation from constituencies formed in our republic, until the necessary explanations are received from competent Russian bodies. Signed: The press center of the Tatarstan president.

Chechnya Makes Effort To 'Accommodate' Election

PM2910191393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Oct 93 p 2

[Alan Kasayev report: "Move To Accommodate Russia? Chechnya Intends To Take Part in Coming Elections According to 'Softly-Softly Option'"]

[Text] The time for elections to the new Russian parliament as well as for the referendum on the new Russian Constitution is drawing near. According to Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, of the 89 regions in Russia only Chechnya has not yet made up its mind whether it is going to take part in the December poll. Nevertheless Ryabov went on to say that Chechnya's inhabitants will be given a chance to express their wishes in the elections. Official Groznyy's reaction was fairly restrained and what is more Movladi Udugov, Chechen minister of press and information, even said that, although the elections are Russia's internal affair, Chechnya's inhabitants can take part in them.

The point is that polling areas will be drawn up on the republic's territory with federal budget money as part of electoral districts located on neighboring Russian territories. People who consider themselves Russian citizens can turn up at the polling stations. This primarily applies to ethnic Russians, the precise number of which in Chechnya is now unknown but is hardly less than 150,000. At the same time Udugov said that the vote will be organized solely on the majority system; that is, Chechnya's inhabitants will be able to voice their view of the Russia-wide party lists and also of the new Russian constitution. Candidates from Chechnya will not be put forward. Thus in some respects Groznyy's official authorities are making a bid to have their actions interpreted as a gesture of good will toward another state's citizens.

At the same time this gesture must nonetheless be seen as a serious step to accommodate Russia. We would remind you that Chechnya did not take part in the April referendum. There are signs of considerable progress in resolving Russia's and Chechnya's attitudes toward each other. At the moment nothing is known about the position espoused by the authorities in Nadterechnyy Rayon, the head of whose administration, Umar Avturkhanov, in many cases pursues a policy independent of President Dudayev's. We know of his contacts with Ruslan Khasbulatov, the former Russian parliament speaker—something that Dudayev was not noted for. It is not clear whether the authorities in Nadterechnyy Rayon will back their president on the issue of taking part in the Russian elections or take a full part in them. It is quite possible that they may boycott the elections completely.

The Chechen president has described the coming 12 December elections as "illegitimate." At the same time Dzh. Dudayev has not objected to the formation of local

polling areas on Chechnya's territory, provided that they form part of electoral districts located in Stavropol Kray, for instance.

Kabardino-Balkaria Issues Edict on 12 Dec Election

MK2910121093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed report in the "NEGA reports" column under "Kabardino-Balkaria" rubric]

[Text] On 28 October the edict by the Kabardino-Balkar Republic [KBR] president, "On Reforming the KBR Supreme Representative Power Body and Holding Early Elections of Deputies to the KBR Parliament," went into effect. Under the edict, elections to the new parliament are set for 12 December 1993. The president has obligated all state bodies and officials to render all assistance in holding the elections and to "stop short any actions aimed at thwarting the elections to the KBR parliament, no matter from where they might originate."

The republic's parliament will consist of two chambers—the Council of the Republic (the State Duma) and the Council of Representatives (the Chamber of Representatives). Both chambers will have 36 deputies each. The Council of the Republic, in contrast to the Council of Representatives, will work on a regular basis. Deputies of the Council of Representatives, according to the edict, will not receive "monetary or other support."

Any citizen of the republic who has reached the age of 21 and is entitled to participate in elections may be elected to the KBR parliament. It is provided that the KBR parliament will be elected to a term of four years. A committee on interethnic relations will be set up within the parliament to regulate interethnic relations, which will be formed from among "deputies of the Kabardin, Balkar, Russian, (and other) nationality on a parity basis." For a question to be considered in the Committee on Interethnic Relations, an appeal must be submitted by two-thirds of parliament deputies of Kabardin, Balkar, Russian, and other nationalities.

Yakutia President Issues Decree on Parliament

LD0111095393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] A statute on the parliament—the legislative assembly of the Republic of Sakha-Yakutia—has been brought into force by a decree of the president of Yakutia, Mikhail Nikolayev. The parliament will consist of two chambers, which will be elected for four years. Citizens of Yakutia who have reached the age of 21 are eligible to become deputies of the legislative assembly.

Government-Parliament Clash in Karelia Eyed

PM2910161593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 93 First Edition p2

[Report by Tamara Kolesova: "Is a Duel Inevitable? Growing Confrontation Between Karelian Supreme Soviet and Government"]

[Text] Chairman of the Karelian Supreme Soviet Viktor Stepanov used to constantly assure the republic's population: "We work in harmony with the government. There is not and cannot be conflict between the two branches of power in our peaceful kray." But that was wishful thinking. Not without reason, a crack appeared in relations between the Council of Ministers and the Supreme Soviet immediately after Boris Yeltsin issued his edict on gradual constitutional reform. Both sessions of the Supreme Soviet (held on 22 and 28-30 September) took the Russian parliament's side, declaring the president's edict to be unconstitutional and invalid in the territory of Karelia.

First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Sergey Yaskunov urged deputies to show common sense. "You cannot deprive voters of the chance to vote. Let them make their own choice 12 December," he said at the 29 September session. But his words simply fell on deaf ears.

The government held an emergency session on the morning of 30 September and adopted a statement. It said, in particular: The Council of Ministers is opposed to the Supreme Soviet's decree on the political situation incorporating a clause stating that the president's edict is invalid in Karelian territory. It does not bode well and will destabilize the situation in the republic.

In response, deputies voted by a majority to condemn the "divisive" stand taken by the Council of Ministers. On the initiative of First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Ivan Aleksandrov, a statement by the Karelian Union of Communists was circulated in the sessions hall. The communists condemned Chairman of the Council of Ministers Sergey Blinnikov and all who supported "Yeltsin's policy against the people."

At the next, third session (8 October), deputies condemned the bloodshed in Moscow, although they held the president and his entourage responsible. The proposal by some deputies to note in the decree that the victims of the clashes lay on the conscience of Khasbulatov and Rutskoy was rejected by the majority, especially as the Karelian Supreme Soviet did not want to admit that it too was to blame for the tragic unfolding of events. There were even calls for a vote of no confidence in Sergey Blinnikov. The matter was only postponed to the second stage of the session because the Council of Ministers chairman was on leave.

This next stage is scheduled for 25 October. The main item on the agenda will be a report by the Council of Ministers.

The Supreme Soviet has tried to meet the government halfway, however. Contrary to previous decrees, it has even made a decision to hold elections to the Federal Assembly on 12 December and has instructed the Council of Ministers to carry out preparatory work.

But it is still possible that the antagonism between the two branches of power will develop into open conflict. According to information provided by people who work in the Council of Ministers, deputies have launched an unofficial investigation. Its aim is to find out who exactly initiated the "seditious" government statement. In turn, offended members of the Council of Ministers are now wondering whether it is worth delivering a report to the Supreme Soviet.

The real arrangement of forces in the republic will be determined by the referendum scheduled for 12 December. The people will not only express their attitude toward the Supreme Soviet but will also say what kind of state structure they would prefer for Karelia.

To be honest, the Karelian Supreme Soviet's position is now rather shaky. The Committee in Support of Reform and the "Democratic Russia" movement have launched a campaign to recall deputies. A meeting of the democratic community in Petrozavodsk demanded that the Supreme Soviet resign. This question was raised on one deputy's initiative at the 8 October session, but only 26 of the 74 deputies voted for self-dissolution. In other words, the majority of them still do not believe that the Supreme Soviet's hour has come. That is why deputies have put off their own reelection until June next year.

Addressing journalists at a recent news conference, Chairman of the Karelian Supreme Soviet Viktor Stepanov said, incidentally: "The political pendulum could still swing, as the situation in the economy is deteriorating." He referred to a visit to one of the largest joint-stock enterprises in the republic, "Petrozavodskbummash," which has been forced to cut its work force. The head of the Karelian parliament is extremely pessimistic about the future. "It is possible," he said, "that, following the dissolution of the representative power, the country will move toward supercentralization, thereby laying the foundations of an intense conflict between the regions and the center which will ultimately blow Russia apart."

The republic's government is not only in a stronger position—it is also more optimistic. That was the conclusion I reached after a meeting with First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Sergey Yaskunov. He believes that the reins of government in the republic are now in the hands of the Council of Ministers, which is preparing for the elections to the federal organs of power and tackling economic problems. He believes that the situation in the economy is really complex and that Russians are keenly aware of this. The Council of Ministers is not making empty promises and saying that people's lives will be better in six months' or a year's time. People must clearly understand that, in order to achieve this, far more time and effort will be required by the government and by each individual citizen.

That is precisely why political stability is now so essential. Guided by the Russian president's edict "On the Reform of Representative Bodies of Authority and Bodies of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation," the Council of Ministers has set up a working group to reform the organs of power. In the event of the Supreme Soviet's dissolving itself or lacking a quorum at its next session, the government will assume full power.

Discussing the statement by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Viktor Stepanov—namely, that there is a danger of increased centralism—Sergey Yaskunov said: "On the contrary, the regions' economic independence will grow. It is an objective process. The economies of Russia and Karelia are inseparably linked: We have a vested interest in one another. In December, the Russian Government will consider the comprehensive programs we have drawn up for an economic experiment in Karelia in line with Yeltsin's edict. The result will either confirm or disprove my theory."

Nevertheless, I repeat, the situation in Karelia is not straightforward. However much the republic may be drawn toward Moscow and Russia, Viktor Stepanov is not the only one afraid of increased centralism. There are grounds for these fears. It is already obvious that the people elected to the federal organs of power from party lists will be mainly Muscovites....

Election Irregularities in Kursk Assessed

PM0111111193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Oct 93 p 2

[Viktor Chermodurov report: "Communists Take Off for Heights of Power from 'Alternate Launch Facilities'"]

[Excerpt] Kursk Oblast—[passage omitted] Pilot A. Rutskoy paved the way for his flight into big-league politics during elections in Kursk Oblast. At the same time the names of people capable of working honorably and honestly in parliament were struck off the ballot papers in rural territorial districts. In their place two obkom [Communist Party of the Soviet Union oblast committee] secretaries and a raykom [Communist Party of the Soviet Union rayon committee] first secretary successfully slipped through the people's net, ...including a future leader of the "Communists of Russia" parliamentary faction and later also a National Salvation Front functionary, Gennadiy Sayenko, who, if the television reports are true, is now on the run.

The most deplorable thing is that even the obvious mistakes seem not to have taught anyone anything. Around a year ago the village of Gniloye in Timskiy Rayon named a former obkom secretary, a prosperous man working for a very big supply firm, as their representative to the oblast soviet (also in the elections to replace an outgoing deputy). A trade-off occurred,

understandable in human terms, but terrible in essence. The unscrupulous party man gave the kolkhoz credit for wages, which people here had not received for a long time. He sent along mobile stores and on election day the bumpkins were able to have a drink near the polling stations. And his team of construction workers tried to be more noisy about restoring the old village church... Three days after the successful election, when the "restoration workers" removed everything down to the last nail and took it away with them, an old woman as old as the church said with a sigh: "We thought we were electing a savior, but we got the Antichrist..." As always, enlightenment comes too late. The village of Gniloye rapidly erased the name of its no-good [golozadyy] farmer from the ballot paper. And an investigation (in which no one turned out to be interested) shortly established that even four dead men voted for the unscrupulous party man.

I remember this episode when I read Moscow opinion in the press: People say that the emphasis in these elections must be placed on the active section of the population. How naive! In our country no one is a more active voter than in the countryside. But they vote primarily "by arrangement" [po zayavleniyam], that is, at home. And the movable ballot boxes are accompanied by "interpreters" who translate for the old women the contents of the ballot papers, which grow more complex every time. And the old women vote on the basis of what they say. Rarely does anyone in the countryside buy the big, "awfully smart" newspapers. Rayon newspapers are the biggest (no irony here!) and most powerful in terms of influence in the boondocks. Five out of six residents—that is, virtually every family—today subscribe to the "rayon paper," and they take to heart what is written there. And there are no guarantees that a little church will not be a campaign center as well as the "headquarters" of the kolkhoz chairman. Admittedly the patriarch has strictly banned clergymen from running, but I found nothing about campaigning from the pulpit in the ban, hard as I tried...

What are we to do? Perhaps we should not vote at all? Not at all. V. Shatokhin a well-known agrarian specialist from Cheremisinovskiy Rayon (a "rarity" among chairmen in terms of his views), said, you should do just the opposite: Nowadays elections must be organized as often as possible without counting the cost, so as to ensure, first, that the process of selecting normal authorities proceeds more rapidly and, second, that people grow accustomed to the idea that they themselves are responsible for their destiny.

Well, so we are confronted with crucial elections. Strictly speaking they have already begun. Admittedly, at the moment the party "grand masters" have only made their opening move, but even from an ordinary first move one can make preliminary estimates as to the nature of the probable delegates.

As soon as the first names of the people who wanted to definitely sit in the Duma were made known in Kursk it became clear that orthodox Communists have no intention of missing their chance. Only this time they are using "alternate launch facilitiess." The oblast organization of the Socialist Party of Working People (it disappeared for a time, but then kind of rose from oblivion after the recent penalties against the host of communist parties) proposed, for instance, including on its federal district electoral association list A. Mikhaylov, chairman of the Shchigrovskiy Rayon Soviet of People's Deputies (read Communist Party of the Russian Federation oblast executive committee chairman); N. Ivanov, deputy head of the Kursk City Employment Center (it sounds noble, but should be seen as follows: cochairman of the same "Zyuganovite" oblast executive committee); and N. Kononov, whose "day job" is as a teacher at an agricultural institute but who is also a well-known Communist in Kursk. The same kind of falcons have veen using Agrarian Party "launch facilities.". If you consider how feeble the voice of the local democratic parties and movements is—and they are "putting forward" 10-20 people each—there is indeed cause for apprehension. [passage omitted]

International Affairs

Slovakia's Defense Minister Andrejcak Visits

Radetskyy, Andrejcak News Conference

LD2910191293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy has spoken in favor of equipping the Ukrainian army with high-precision non-nuclear weapons.

"We must compensate the reduction of the Ukrainian troops with new weapons to ensure the protection of our state," he told a press conference in Kiev today on the results of the visit of his Slovak counterpart, Imrich Andrejcak.

Radetsky described his attitude to the U.S. proposal to create "partnership of peace" within the NATO as "positive."

The minister declined to comment on the deadline of pulling Ukrainian nuclear weapons out of its territory saying it is up to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet to provide an answer to this "delicate and sensitive" question.

The Slovak minister said the agreement on bilateral cooperation signed by the two ministers in Kiev called for a search for ways of mutually beneficial cooperation. He said this document was very much like the documents signed earlier between Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and Austria.

He also said his talks with the Ukrainian minister focused on possibilities to jointly use Ukrainian repair base and training of Slovak anti-aircraft officers in Ukraine.

Further on News Conference

LD2910224193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1853 GMT 29 Nov 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 29 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—At a joint news conference, the defense ministers of Ukraine and the Slovak Republic noted the historical closeness, common aspirations for peace, and similar views on defense aspects in the policies of the two independent states. The news conference summed up the results of the two-day official visit to Ukraine by the Slovak military delegation headed by Imrich Andrejcak, the republic's defense minister.

The agreement signed in Kiev, Imrich Andrejcak said, is a treaty between two countries attempting to develop equal partnership which is favorable to both sides. Europe's new states have the same problems, he noted. They are mainly connected with the economy. The lack of finance means that not all of the army's needs can be satisfied. Therefore, the Slovak minister said, we have a particular interest in cooperation between our armed forces. He stressed that the agreement adopted does not compel anyone to anything but serves as a basis for specific activity of the Ukrainian and Slovak military in the field of mutual technical aid and other issues. Detailed programs of such mutually beneficial contacts will be developed by the headquarters of the military departments of the two states after studying the possibilities of both sides.

Colonel-General Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukraine's defense minister, stressed that the conversation was about conventional weapons. With regard to nuclear weapons, he said that according to the military doctrine adopted, Ukraine will strive to become a nuclear-free state. In the near future, 45 percent of carrier rockets and 36 percent of nuclear warheads will be destroyed here. Vitaliy Radetskyy noted the productive nature of the visit to Ukraine by the Slovak delegation and expressed hope that the documents of the meeting will serve the future strengthening of peace in Europe.

The Slovak delegation left for home today.

Andrejcak on Cooperation

LD2910232193 Prague CTK in English 2211 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev, Oct 29 (CTK)—We will seek somewhere to buy cheaper what we lack at home, whether in the Czech Republic or in Ukraine, Slovak Defence Minister Imrich Andrejcak told CTK today at the close of his two-day visit to Ukraine.

No deliveries of military supplies have been agreed on for the time being, Andrejcak added.

I would like to buy spare parts at once, but with what? he said. He said he expected future trade to be based on the same principles as trade with the Czech Republic, i.e. a barter system.

The prospects for Ukrainian-Slovak cooperation lie mainly in using the potential of the two countries' armsmakers for the modernisation of the current equipment, Andrejcak stated.

The capacities of many Ukrainian armsmakers and repairers will remain unexploited as they were originally designed to supply the whole Soviet Army. Slovakia faces a similar situation and expects aid from Ukraine in this area, Andrejcak said.

He indicated that cooperation was expected mainly in supplying planes manufactured in Ukraine with Slovak engines, and probably also in the field of anti-aircraft weapons. However, Slovakia must consider whether such prospects will be financially advantageous for it, he stressed.

Andrejcak said that a Ukrainian-Slovak agreement on military cooperation which he signed with his Ukrainian counterpart on Thursday was very advantageous for Slovakia. The two countries' problems resemble each other and the means to fund defence are limited. Therefore they can seek jointly what is more advantageous for them, he stated.

At a press conference today, Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy said he greatly appreciated the negotiations with Andrejcak and said they had reached full understanding in all points.

Andrejcak today ended his first official visit to Ukraine and returned to Slovakia.

Draft Treaty Seeks Liquidation of 36% of Warheads

LD2910172593 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy told journalists today that the draft START I treaty "envisions the liquidation of 42 percent of launch vehicles and 36 percent of warheads in Ukraine." The defense minister refused to mention the terms of liquidation or report any other details until the Supreme Council adopts a relevant decision.

Official 'Satisfied' by Progress in Talks With Romania

WS0111093993 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 22 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "To Kiev...In Kiev-...From Kiev" rubric]

[Text] The Ukrainian delegation to talks with Romania on establishing the legal foundations for bilateral relations, is satisfied with the results of the negotiations to date, said Yuriy Bohayevskyy, a Foreign Ministry department head, who is leading the Ukrainian delegation. In his opinion, the talks were earnest and based on partnership, as well as good-neighborly relations. In particular, it was decided to begin preparations for a visit by Romanian President Ion Iliescu to Ukraine. The head of the delegation expressed hopes that the discussed documents would be included in a joint declaration, which is to be signed in Kiev, and that they would establish the foundations for a future agreement between the two states.

Regarding the issue of ethnic minorities, it was emphasized during the negotiations that they must be resolved in a civilized manner, moreover, a state should bear all responsibility for the comprehensive development of such segments of society.

Statement on French Offer To Promote Nuclear Safety

LD3010185093 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2050 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev—Following the Ukrainian parliament's declaration on continued use of two working reactors at the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station, Ukraine's Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Environment have published a joint press release agreed with Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It says, in particular:

"The international community has noted serious safety faults at this type of reactors France has put forward an initiative for the international community, at the level of the European Community or industrialized countries, to extend financial and technical aid to solve nuclear safety problems in the countries of Eastern Europe. It is necessary to create conditions to shut down the most dangerous of Chernobyl-type nuclear reactors within the shortest possible period of time.

"France points out that it has already begun unilateral or joint, together with European partners, negotiations about enhancing the efficiency of organizations in charge of nuclear safety in these countries."

Foreign Ministry Statement on Asbestos Cargo Ship

LD3010182093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The press center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs circulated a statement today. The statement says: Recent media reports point to the presence of a foreign vessel in Ukrainian territorial waters with a cargo which could be dangerous to the environment. The Foreign Ministry press center is authorized to state that competent officials are keeping the issue under control. The appropriate measures will be taken if the allegations prove true.

Mutual Visa Regulations Introduced With Lithuania

LD3110202293 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] The Government of the Lithuanian Republic and the Government of Ukraine are introducing a visa regime as of 1 and 22 November respectively for citizens of each of the countries to enter and stay on the territory of Ukraine and the Lithuanian Republic.

National Affairs

Official Confirms Chernobyl Nuclear Fuel 'Missing'

PM2910184793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2100 GMT 28 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" program]

[Text] [video shows exterior of Chernobyl nuclear power station, followed by shots of interior] Nikolay Sorokin, Chernobyl nuclear power station general director, has confirmed a report that nuclear fuel is missing from the station. According to his words, the precise quantity of the missing substance is known—129.6 g of uranium which had been stored in two containers. Nikolay Sorokin said further that a special commission is investigating this matter. It is studying two main hypotheses. According to the first the fuel itself has not been lost, only the documents for its transportation have gone missing—which might have happened even before the accident in April 1986. The second hypothesis is based on the assumption that the fuel has been stolen with malicious intent. Details about the commission's work are not being made public. It has been stated that the stolen fuel does not present a major threat because of the small quantity involved. Furthermore, it had not been irradiated since it was not used. [video shows glimpse of exterior, various shots of interior, director being interviewed]

Official Denies Nuclear Weapons Damaged

LD2910141393 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1210 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev, 29 Oct—"The state of nuclear weapons in Ukraine corresponds to the norms. In several mass media sources, in particular the IZVESTIYA paper, the state of protection of our nuclear weapons has not accurately been portrayed."

Colonel Volodymyr Tertychnyy, deputy head of the directorate for safeguarding nuclear weapons of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, told a UNIAR correspondent that "nuclear weapons which have been taken to Russia are not damaged."

Kravchuk Issues Decree on State Control, State Order

LD3010104293 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2050 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—On 28 October Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk signed a decree "On State Control and State Order for 1994." In compliance with the decree, in 1994 the country's needs in industrial, technical, military, agricultural products and consumer goods will be satisfied; the most important branches of the national economy will be supported by the state; and inter-state agreements will be carried out through a state contract and state order. The latter will be formed proceeding from the proposals by ministries and departments. Enterprises and organizations will finance the state contract at the expense of their own money and available credit resources. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has been obliged to determine in fortnight's time the procedure of forming and placing state contracts and orders with the executors. The state order and state contract are mandatory for the state and leasing enterprises, enterprises based on state property and enterprises monopolists in their field. Moreover, the executors are to provide themselves with material and technical resources independently by way of direct agreements with suppliers.

Kravchuk Decrees National Guards Day as Holiday

LD3010092893 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2050 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev—By a Ukrainian presidential decree dated 28 October, Ukraine's National Guards Day has been inaugurated as a holiday to be marked annually on 4 November, the day when the Supreme Council passed the law "On the National Guards of Ukraine" in 1991.

On the same day, the president of Ukraine issued a decree on granting privileges to Heroes of Socialist Labor, envisaged by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers' decree No. 37, dated 23 April, "On privileges to Heroes of the Soviet Union and full holders of the Order of Glory."

On 28 October, the Ukrainian citizen's foreign passport regulations were approved by a decree of the President of Ukraine. The Cabinet of Ministers is obliged to ensure the issue of a Ukrainian citizen's foreign passport as of 1 January 1994.

Defense Minister Orders Cuts in Army Personnel

LD2910221193 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2050 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—According to information received by a UNIAN correspondent from informed sources, Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy issued an order that the Ukrainian Armed Forces are to be cut by 150,000 down to 380,000 men by 1 January 1994. The number will reach 250,000 by the end of 1995. It is planned to keep four out of eight deployed all-arms divisions (in Chernigov, Crimea, Lvov, and Ivano-Frankovsk). The army cuts envisioned by the order are set at a greater speed than those recently approved by the Supreme Council (to have 420,000 men by the end of 1995, 200,000 by the year 2000). Experts believe that the minister agreed the directive with the president of Ukraine.

New Draft Constitution Published in Kiev

LD3010210593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1445 GMT 30 Oct 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Olga Tanasiychuk for Tass]

[Text] Kiev, 30 Oct—The Ukrainian draft constitution published here today declares the country a "democratic, law-governed social state in which all power belongs to the people." The draft basic law invests citizens with equal rights and liberties irrespective of their social status, nationality, or religion. The right to freedom of

conscience and religion is proclaimed, and the activity of all public organizations is guaranteed. The draft law takes account of the interests of the country's ethnic minorities and guarantees its citizens protection outside its borders.

The highest body of legislative power is the Supreme Council, consisting of 450 deputies elected for four years. The Supreme Council has the right to amend and supplement the Constitution with subsequent confirmation by an all-Ukrainian referendum. The highest body of executive power is the Cabinet of Ministers, which is guided in its activity by the President's program, while remaining subordinate to the Supreme Council.

The head of state is the president, elected by universal, equal, direct and secret ballot for a period of five years. The president is the guarantor of national security, represents the country in international relations, leads implementation of foreign policy and signs international treaties.

The president nominates a candidate premier for confirmation by the Supreme Council, and appoints the members of the government. He is the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, and heads the National Security Council. He has the right to take decisions on mobilization and introducing martial law in the country, and on declaring a state of war.

Ukraine's territorial structure is based on the principles of unity and integrity of state territory. The Crimea republic is granted special legal status as an autonomous entity within Ukraine.

Crimea President Candidate Pledges 'Return to Russia'

LD0111110893 Kiev INTERFAX in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Sevastopol, 31 Oct—The Sevastopol branch of the Russian Party of Crimea held a meeting attended by a recent nominee for the post of president of the Crimean Republic, Serhiy Shuvaynykov [name as received]. He promised to reshape the Crimean economy toward close cooperation with Russia and to return to the ruble zone, in the event of his victory in the election. The Crimean presidential candidate called for active preparation for the election, which can place the Russian Party of Crimea in key power positions on the peninsula, to implement the policy of "Crimea's fair return to Russia."

Crimean Groups Want Russian Navy Chief for President

AU3010182993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 29 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Sevastopol's Russian left-wing bloc and patriotic organizations turned to Igor Kasatonov, first deputy chief commander of the Russian Federation Naval Fleet, with a request to agree to stand for the post of president of the Crimean Republic. Our correspondent was told by Yuriy Meshkov, chairman of the Crimean Republican Party, his party, "The Russian Party of the Crimea," and quite a number of other all-Crimean organizations that we "will be happy to support Kasatonov's candidature."

Officially, candidates for president of the Crimean Republic are not to be nominated until 16 November.

Belarus

Kebich Doubts Possibility of Joint Ruble Zone

LD2910200793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1944 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Sergey Zayats for TASS]

[Text] Minsk October 29 TASS—There will be no unified rouble zone in the Commonwealth of the Independent States as "our Russian colleagues view any union as "a burden on Russia's shoulders", Belarusian Prime-Minister Vyacheslav Kebich said at a meeting of the Belarusian Industries' and Businesses' Confederation which was held in Minsk Thursday and concentrated on ways to enter the CIS eastern market.

Kebich also said there were many "buts" as to creating a joint economic space with Russia because Russian Government officials insisted upon preserving a certain gap between prices of energy sources in Russia and Belarus even if an agreement on creating a unified monetary zone were signed.

To revive economic links between the two countries, Russia needs to make some moves in response to that of Belarus, he said. Here he specifically referred to his recent resolution, banning any centralized issuing of quotas and licences to export goods from Belarus to Russia, excluding only few articles such as gold, fertilizers, timber, and metals.

Government Approves Entry Into Ruble Zone

LD3010171593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The government of Belarus today approved an agreement on practical measures for setting up the new-style ruble zone, the BELINFORM agency reports. The Belarusian Council of Ministers adopted a decision to put forward the above agreement to the republic's Supreme Soviet for ratification.

Let us remind you, the agreement was signed by six states, former USSR republics, including Belarus, on 7 September in Moscow.

Kebich Concerned Over Ties With Russia Until Elections

LD2910214093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1751 GMT 29 Oct 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Addressing a session of the Belarusian Industrialists Federation, Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich voiced his concern about relations with Russia and said that "until the new authorities are formed in Russia, businessmen should focus on direct ties." He revealed plans to meet his Russian counterpart Victor Chernomyrdin, possibly this weekend, for "consultations on economic integration and a single ruble zone."

Belarus, Kebich noted, "is the only state with which Russia has been negotiating on a single ruble zone and these issues cannot be discussed with anyone in Russia before December 12."

The prime minister named "the creation of a stable currency and solving the problem of fuel supply" the main tasks facing Belarus today.

The session decided to set up a parliamentary centrist bloc, which would comprise the confederation of industrialists and the parliamentary majority faction "Belarus."

In the words of Gennadiy Kozlov, an assistant to the Secretary of State for CIS affairs, "it will be a real center, without extremes in the form of communists and popular front advocates."

At the next session of parliament in Minsk on November 9, the new bloc will ask for the passing of a new constitution and will request to move to the beginning of the agenda all economic questions, as well as the reports by Shushkevich and Kebich on the economic situation in the republic.

Impact of 3-4 October Moscow Events Viewed

PM2910164593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Oct 93 First Edition p 7

[Report by Igor Gukovskiy: "A Little Farther Away From 'Big Brother'?"]

[Text] Minsk—The October events in the capital have had a rapid impact on political life in Belarus. National democratic parties, which, until recently, had persistently demanded that the country distance itself from "imperial Russia" and not adopt a way of life alien to the Belarusian mentality, are now suddenly urging with equal persistency that Belarus look to the Russian capital and conscientiously learn "Moscow's lessons."

Although there is no reason to think that Belarusian communist and Slavonic organizations were involved in the bloodshed in Moscow's streets, they have been the target of an initial attack. By means of numerous joint and individual statements in the press, national democrats are now calling for a ban on the activity of the Union of Officers, the Communist Party, the Movement for Social Progress and Justice, the "Belaya Rus" Slavonic Assembly, and other monarchic, left-of-center parties and movements in the republic.

Only the United Democratic Party of Belarus is proposing that some sort of formality be observed: Namely, to set up a parliamentary commission to investigate the activity of "fascist-communist organizations in Belarus and their role in the preparation of the revolt in Moscow."

The initiators of this action are not at all troubled by the fact that the disposition of forces in Belarus is somewhat different to the disposition of forces in Russia, or by the fact that there would have to be a ban on the activity of most political organizations in the republic if the national democrats' calls were heeded. Incidentally, the Belarusian Communist Party alone has more members than all the national democratic formations put together.

It is not hard to see that the Moscow events are being used in this case by forces grouped around the Belarusian People's Front (BPF) as an instrument for a political counterattack. If these maneuvers are viewed in the context of the forthcoming elections to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, planned for spring next year, the activity of those who support the BPF and Speaker Shushkevich, who relies on these forces, is perfectly understandable: They want to preserve their political reputation at a time when their popularity among the masses is waning and remove their political opponents.

Making the most of the favorable situation, those who support a sovereign path of development for Belarus have rapidly knocked together the "Spring-94" election bloc and, with the support of the parliamentary commission for questions of glasnost, which is essentially under their control, are now proposing to carry out a "purge" of the mass media by appointing new chief editors of central publications and, at the same time, abolishing structures they consider to be superfluous. The Belarusian Council of Minister's Information Department, for example.

These intentions, however, have met with a unanimous rebuff from almost all newspapers in the republic. But it is quite possible that the question of suspending the activity of various political organizations and their information media, and also that of cadre changes in republic newspapers, will be developed at the next parliamentary session, beginning 9 November.

Top statesmen are keeping quiet on this occasion. Shushkevich probably feels he stated his position sufficiently clearly during the Moscow events and has nothing further to add. [Prime Minister] Kebich is diplomatically avoiding any assessment, pointedly focusing attention on strictly economic matters.

This diplomatic approach is understandable. As recently as September, representatives of the government's "political core" and the progovernment "Belarus" deputy faction were calling for deeper integration with Russia. Some of them were even urging a political union. Moreover, contrary to allegations by supporters of Shushkevich and the BPF, they were not going against the masses' opinion but were acting in line with their wishes and aspirations.

Extensive research—"Prognosis-93"—conducted shortly before the Moscow events revealed that 73.7 percent of Belarusian citizens questioned regretted the breakup of the USSR, while some 70 percent said they would not have voted for so-called perestroyka if they had known what the consequences would be. The majority were in favor of establishing a lasting economic, financial, and even political union with Russia (85.7 percent, 61.5 percent, and 55.4 percent respectively).

That was the situation no more than a month ago. What about now? Unfortunately, there are as yet no objective data showing a change in public opinion since the Moscow events. But snap polls carried out by news agencies and press publications and statements by the leaders of various political parties make it possible to conclude that Belarusians' attitude toward a union with "big brother" has dramatically changed. Even the staunchest supporters of unity are now proposing to wait awhile, because the situation in Russia, in their opinion, is so unstable that such a union does not bode well for the republic.

For the first time in recent years representatives of the BPF and the Communist Party are unanimous in the opinion that it would be dangerous to enter into any kind of union with a state headed by a "human tank," to quote BPF leader Zenon Poznyak.

In this situation, the confusion felt by the Belarusian Government's "political core" and the "Belarus" deputy faction is perfectly understandable. Integration with Russia is becoming a rather unattractive prospect for them in the new conditions. Moreover, since the signing of an economic agreement within the CIS framework, a highly curious situation has taken shape: They will have to ratify a document whose basis it has been proposed to denounce. We should point out that Kebich has described the signed agreement as declarative, which he has never done in relation to other agreements on integration.

In the present circumstances, the conclusion of an economic union, for which the prime minister has fought so hard, has proved to be a victory for the speaker, who has worked to preserve the CIS and implement the Belovezhskaya agreements in practice.

But there is one thing which the events in Moscow have been unable to influence: the activity of soviets of all levels in Belarus. The majority of their chairmen believe that the collapse of the soviets would signal the end of democracy. "Breaking up the soviets would mean driving away the people's representatives," leaders of Minsk City Soviet said at a news conference marking the opening of the latest city soviet session. "Everyone knows that Russia has now taken a different path and is moving toward a different system of government. We pray to God that it is self-government...."

Disarmament Policies of U.S., Kiev, Minsk Viewed

LD2810172993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1557 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Vosboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The United States is prepared to financially sustain Belarus, which pursues a consistent and steady course to achieve the status of a nuclear-free state. The United States will back a country like ours in the sphere of nuclear disarmament, Interfax was told by Valeriy Tsepkalo, foreign policy aide to the speaker of the Belarusian Parliament, commenting on the visit to Minsk by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. He said that the United States understood its special responsibility for the future of the world.

The aide said that at first sight it would be more advantageous economically to sustain Ukraine financially, because the United States could receive instead nuclear fuel of the scrapped missiles. However, the United States would lose politically, said the aide.

Kiev's inconsistent policies in terms of reduction of nuclear armaments forced the United States to help Ukraine, he believes. This would lead to the situation where some states in 1995 refused to prolong the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. That is why the situation could shape up when the nuclear arms could be considered by a large group of states as an important factor of foreign policy and as an important element of national security, said the aide.

The U.S. secretary of State made it clear that his country's administration understood that when it comes to nuclear arms one should not be guided only by the economic interests of the moment, said Valeriy Tsepkalo.

Legal Assistance Agreement Signed With PRC

LD3010172893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1223 GMT 30 Oct 93

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Yekaterina Vysotskaya]

[Text] Minsk, 30 Oct—A ceremony for the exchange of letters of ratification of the treaty between the Republic of Belarus and the PRC on legal assistance in civil and criminal cases took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the evening of 29 October. The document, which is of importance for both states, was signed by Chinese Ambassador Wang Xingda and Georgiy Tarazevich, the republic's first deputy foreign minister. The treaty will come into effect 30 days after the exchange of letters of ratification.

The treaty on legal assistance in criminal, civil and family cases is a legal document which regulates issues relating to protecting our citizens while in China and PRC citizens staying in Belarus. The agreement covers the interests of people who have committed offenses and crimes and are to be brought to account. In addition, the document covers issues of property inheritance, marriages and adoption.

Moldova

Ion Botnaru Replaces Tau as Foreign Minister

AU3010181593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 28/10/1993—Yesterday, by presidential decree Ion Botnaru was appointed on the post of the minister of external affairs ad interim. Previously, Botnaru executed the functions of the prime-vice minister. Ion Botnaru is 39 years old and was born in the Pitusca village, Calarasi district. He graduated from the Institute of Asian and African countries of Lomonosov University in Moscow. Beginning from 1981 and up to 1983 Botnaru worked in Ankara as interpreter-referent. Between 1983-1984 he worked in the Institute of History of the Academy and then wrote a doctors thesis in the Institute of African and Asian Countries. He proved the doctorate thesis on the theme "The Role of the Islamic Factor in the Political Fight in Turkey." For two years beginning from 1987 Botnaru had been lecturing as a professor in the Pedagogic Institute in Chisinau. In 1989 he began working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the period from 1990 to 1992 experienced functions of chief of the Direction of Political Analysis. In April 1992 he was appointed vice-minister. He is married and has two children.

Sangheli Views Romanian, International Economic Aid

AU2910112293 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0500 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The International Monetary Fund has granted a first installment worth $120 million to the Republic of Moldova as part of the international loan that has been offered to that country following the Paris meeting of the states offering financial assistance. The rest of the loan, $130 million, will be transferred to Moldova from the European Community over the next two weeks.

Our Chisinau correspondent, Mircea Dascaliuc, reports that the loan is solely meant to support the reform process—the first step being the introduction of the national currency to balance the financial and banking situation of the country.

During a news conference held yesterday, commenting on the non-refundable loan offered to his country by Romania, Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli said that they have received over 9,000 tonnes of gasoline, which is less than the 20,000 tonnes that should be delivered monthly according to the contract [of economic assistance concluded between the two countries]. There have also been complaints about the quality of the gasoline, Sangheli said.

After thanking Romania for its efforts, the prime minister said that the promised measures to facilitate the

selling of Moldovan products on the Romanian market could not be carried out owing to difficulties on the Romanian side.

Sangheli then detailed the economic assistance being granted to the Republic of Moldova by Russia.

A press communique issued by the World Bank states that the chairman of the consultative group of that international financial body, Basil Kowalski [name as heard], salutes the fact that Romania, the Russian Federation, and Turkey have joined the countries involved in the program of international assistance offered to the Republic of Moldova.

Moldovan President Mircea Snegur considers Romania's readiness to continue offering assistance to his country as, quote, a secure investment made in the economic and spiritual integration of Romania and the Republic of Moldova, unquote. Snegur made that assessment in the message he addressed to Romanian President Ion Iliescu, thanking him for the greetings he sent on Moldova's National Day.

Sangheli on International Support for Reform Program

LD2910221693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1751 GMT 29 Oct 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli said Moldova would introduce its own currency, the Moldovan leu, before November 29.

He told a news conference on Thursday that the country had enlisted the support of international financial organizations at a conference of creditor states held in Paris on October 26-27.

Moldova needs $250 million to be able to carry out its radical economic reforms, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development being ready to give it a credit of $120 million, Sangheli said.

He said the government program of economic and financial stabilization had the approval of international organizations, in particular the International Monetary Fund and the International and European Banks for Reconstruction and Development, the European Community, and the 12 nations which are Moldova's creditors.

The premier said that, due to its parliament's refusal to ratify the Almaty agreements on membership in the CIS, "Moldova has lost forty billion and a market for its goods in Russia." But he said he hoped the problem of excise duties imposed on Moldovan goods exported to Russia would be solved within the next few days.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: After the presidium of the Moldovan parliament on October 26 endorsed the Almaty agreements, Russia decided to lift its restrictions on imports from Moldova.

Chisinau Rejects Romanian News Articles on CIS Ties

AU3010194693 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The press office of the Government of the Republic of Moldova has issued a communique, which—after pointing out that since 1 September, many citizens of Moldova have been receiving Romanian dailies—says that some of their articles try to influence the readers as to what should be done in Moldova, quoting, in this sense, an item published in the Bucharest daily ADEVARUL, titled "The New Empire Begins To Take Shape," which comments on the initialing by Moldova of the treaty on the establishment of the CIS economic union.

The press office of the Moldovan Government emphasizes the fact that the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova has not examined the issue of Moldova's adherence to that economic union. The communique also states that by not having ratified the Almaty documents, Moldova has lost its traditional markets in the east, and owing to this, over merely three months, the country has suffered losses worth 40,000 rubles, which equals the losses caused by last year's drought.

The communique issued by the press office of the Government of the Republic of Moldova also stresses that the initialing of the treaty on the establishment of the CIS economic union has made it possible for the republic to partially reconquer those eastern markets and facilitate the import of energy resources. The communique adds that all former communist European countries are making efforts to reestablish relations with the Russian Federation and other former Soviet republics, and quotes, as an example, a statement made to that effect by a Czech diplomat who had visited Moldova.

The text ends with a rhetorical question: Why should the Republic of Moldova condemn markets that are coveted so much by other countries that have market economies?

Snegur Sees Role for CSCE in Talks With Dniester

PM0111100793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Svetlana Gamova report: "CSCE Will Act as Mediator in Talks on the Dniester Region"]

[Text] Chisinau—Moldova's parliamentary elections, scheduled for 27 February, will probably take place under the CSCE flag. At the very least, Moldova's President M. Snegur submitted a request for a delegation of observers from this international organization during

a meeting with Oliver Spencer, director of the secretariat of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

According to information released by the president's press service, particular attention was paid at this meeting to the republic's eastern rayons—the Dniester Region—and possible ways of eliminating the tension existing in this region. M. Snegur declared that, following the collapse of October's revolt in Moscow, a propitious situation has been created for eliminating the vagueness in dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol.

Moreover, a desire to continue this dialogue on the eve of the parliamentary elections in Moldova is being voiced at various levels. Many of the 26 parties and movements registered in the republic today intend to include in their lists of candidates representatives of Left Bank rayons, as well as populated areas in which there is a high concentration of Gagauz. The new social movement "Civic Alliance," which unites representatives of the intelligentsia on the principle of strengthening the republic's statehood, has announced its intention to swell its ranks with citizens from these regions.

Having confirmed the current Moldovan leadership's intention to continue talks on the Dniester Region, M. Snegur noted a new detail at this stage: It is possible that CSCE representatives will participate in this process. The CSCE will probably act as a mediator in the dialogue between Moldova and Russia on questions pertaining to the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army. As the national news agency MOLDOVA-PRESS reports, during the conversation with M. Snegur, O. Spencer requested additional data on the 14th Army, and he noted that they will be used as the basis of meetings with Russia's leaders.

Dniester, Ukraine Region Conclude Cooperation Accord

AU3110191893 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2117 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 29/10/1993—A delegation of the Zhitomir region of Ukraine arrived yesterday in Tiraspol. It concluded an agreement of cooperation in economy, culture, science, and other fields with the self-styled Dniester Republic. That is the first agreement concluded between the Dniester Republic and a region of Ukraine.

Dniester's Maracuta Wants 14th Army To Remain

AU2910164093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 28/10/1993—Grigore Maracuta, president of the Dniester Supreme Soviet in his interview broadcast yesterday by Radio Tiraspol, declared that the Government of Moldova plans new economic and probably military blockade of the Dniester region. Maracuta said that General Lebed did not behave properly declaring the participation of "Dniester" battalion's members in the Moscow mutiny supporting Rutskoy and Hkasbulatov. Maracuta considers that Lebed was forced to make this error and "it is necessary to apply all efforts to make the 14th Army remain in Dniester."

Parliament's Presidium Majority for Joining CIS

MK3010123093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 72, 30 Oct 93 (signed to press 29 Oct) p 5

[Dmitriy Zhdannikov report: "Moldova Parliament Presidium Returns to the Question of Joining CIS, and Joining Economic Union Structures"]

[Text] After the presidium of Moldova's parliament bowed two weeks ago to the demands of the majority of the agrarian party deputies and spoke for holding early elections, one would have thought that the entire work of the current Supreme Soviet would be focused on getting morally ready for quitting the political stage on 27 February 1994. The presidium's decree said that the old Supreme Soviet would retain its powers until the scheduled date of reelections, but it seemed doubtful that the old parliament would exert itself doing too much lawmaking work. The more so because the majority of deputies led by the agrarian faction proposed an immediate dissolution of the present Supreme Soviet, not just reelections.

According to an INTERFAX report, however, on 27 October the presidium of Moldova's parliament recommended to the present composition of the country's Supreme Soviet to ratify, before the reelections, an agreement on joining the CIS, and a treaty on the formation of an economic union. Sixteen out of the 20 members of the presidium voted for passing a decree on this matter.

It is worth recalling that despite early reelections' having remained the main demand of the majority of deputies for two months, the direct boycott was provoked precisely by the decision of the republic's Supreme Soviet against joining the Commonwealth. In order that this document could be ratified, the deputies were supposed to secure two thirds of the votes rather than a simple majority. The opposition factions won an edge of four votes on the majority's opinion, and the agrarian deputies walked out.

Taking account of the hard economic situation in which Moldova had found itself owing to the introduction of excise duties and of a value-added tax for products exported to the CIS countries, the Supreme Soviet presidium thought it would be proper under the circumstances if President Mircea Snegur signed agreements on joining the CIS and Moldova's joining the economic union. The decree underlines that the parliament presidium recognizes as expedient Moldova's participation in all structures of the CIS and the economic union.

At the same time President Mircea Snegur signed on 28 October an edict on additional measures to stabilize the socioeconomic and financial situation, to develop industry and other economic sectors of the republic. The edict, among other things, specifies how a special, nonbudget, military conversion fund for 1993 should be formed and used. Another decree by Moldova's president forms a fund of the republic's state property. It becomes the central organ of control with powers to own and dispose of state property on behalf of the government. Among its main tasks is to protect Moldova's property rights and interests on and outside its territory, to assist the economic reform processes, and to attract foreign investments.

New Party Pledges National Conciliation, Progress

AU3110191693 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2117 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 29/10/1993—The inauguration conference of the Conciliation and Progress Party [PCP] took place yesterday. Deputy Ilia Trombici was elected chairman, says a communique issued by the party's press service. The party will plead for free elections, separation of powers, human rights, and freedom of speech and thoughts. The new party pleads for the state order based on citizenship and not on ethnic origin. According to the statement, PCP regards the [Moldovan] environment composed of many nations and many cultures as a social heritage and will contribute to its consolidation. "The party will contribute to the nonviolent solution of the Dniester and Gagauz conflicts by compromises and common language." The chairman of the republican council of PCP, Ilia Trombici, interviewed by a BASAPRESS reporter, declared that the problem of eastern and southern Moldovan regions should be solved according to broad rights, following West-European models, especially those of Germany and Switzerland. Trombici stressed that the party would be soon registered, but it would not take part separately in the forthcoming elections. It will support parties the programs of which most resemble that of PCP.

Kazakhstan

Almaty, China Agree To Reduce Border Military Presence

LD2910203893 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1230 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] State Councillor Zhukeyev held a briefing on 28 October on the results of the recent visits by President Nursultan Nazarbayev to the PRC and Mongolia, and the visits to Kazakhstan by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He said the results of our head of state's visit to the PRC have been unanimously rated highly. All the necessary conditions exist for signing an agreement with the PRC on border issues, and the issue of reducing the military presence on both sides within a radius of 100-200 km from the demarcation lines is being (?addressed). We expect trade with central and southern China will increase considerably, and the establishment of a Kazakhstan-China has been suggested

Mutually beneficial relations with Mongolia [words indistinct] to a new stage.

The results of the visits to Kazakhstan by the U.S. secretary of state and the Iranian president were valued positively, the state councillor stressed.

In reply to a question on Kazakhstan's prospects for joining NATO, he noted that the slogan "NATO is looking at Asia" should not be interpreted as [word indistinct] of this union in Asia, but more likely as a proposal for partnership and integration.

Nazarbayev Sees Need To Restructure Armed Forces

LD2910215993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1751 GMT 29 Oct 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Kazakhstan will have to restructure its armed forces, almost completely renovate them, provide them with good equipment and "certainly drastically reduce their numerical strength," President Nursultan Nazarbayev said when visiting the 385th Motorized Infantry Regiment and an airborne brigade of the Kapchagai Garrison in Alma-Ata Region.

The republic needs mobile, well-armed and well-trained forces, Nazarbayev said. In providing training for its military personnel, Kazakhstan intends to seek the assistance not only of Russia, its strategic ally, but of European Community and NATO countries as well. "We would like to borrow everything that is the best in the armies of the world," he said.

He said Kazakhstan's objectives in the military area were defense of its territorial integrity and independence. "We are not an aggressive state. Kazakhstan has no claims on territory belonging to any other state," the president said.

He said that what ensured peace for Kazakhstan and good relations with its neighbors were its 1991 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with Russia, its agreements with China on the absence of mutual territorial claims and its agreement with Iran on non- intervention in each other's internal political, economic and religious affairs.

Kyrgyzstan

Vice President Kulov Sees Country at Crucial Stage

PM2910102593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p7

[Interview with Vice President Feliks Kulov by correspondent Vladimir Berezovskiy in Bishkek; date not given: "At a Steep Pass"—first paragraph is ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA introduction

[Text] A dramatic slump in the economy, interethnic friction, losses from the earthquake in the south of the republic—these and other problems are seriously complicating the formation of the young Kyrgyz state, whose leadership has opted for democracy and a market system. One of the leaders of the new postcommunist wave is 44-year-old Vice President Feliks Sharshenbayevich Kulov. He used to head the Ministry of Internal Affairs. His rating is one of the highest in Kyrgyzstan. Today he answers questions by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Berezovskiy] How do you view the last two years of independence in the republic? What progress has been made and what needs to be amended?

[Kulov] There is no point hiding the fact that the republic was not ready for total freedom. We were confronted with a historical fact and forced to react.

To use the language of sport, the republic has gotten the bar to chest height. Standing up with it without any problems is a task for the immediate future. We certainly do not want African-style "independence," when in the club of civilized states nothing depends on you. So first of all we must pump up the muscles of our economy, which is pinned to the ropes by the crisis. Freedom has allowed us to develop a keen awareness of the world's interdependence, as we have grown together with Russia and our neighbors in Turkestan.

Nevertheless, our country has begun to live in a new dimension. That does not mean we are starting with a clean sheet, but in many respects we have become newly aware of ourselves as a nation and as a member of the world community. At first there was a danger we would

be infected by the virus of narrow, primitive nationalism, but this "infantile disorder" of independence was quite quickly cured with the aid of democracy, maximum openness in society, and freedom of speech.

Where have we lost pace? In my view, we have yet to assemble the "engine" of reform: a class of small and medium producers and entrepreneurs. Opting for large plants and complexes is out of the question in our small republic. We must introduce an economic mechanism capable of rapid readjustment. In addition to the shortage of investments and modern cadres, another factor making itself felt is the conservatism of a substantial proportion of society, which still does not accept the businesses springing up, because Marxism instilled a rejection of private ownership and any attempt to "make money" or show initiative. Once we have pulled back this rusty bolt, I am convinced we will make serious progress.

[Berezovskiy] Many observers are surprised by the degree of democratization in your society, which, in view of Asian traditions, one would have expected to incline toward authoritarianism.

[Kulov] In my view, President Askar Akayev has played a key role. He believes in the people and in their intelligence and goodwill and has liberated their forces in order to storm a difficult historical pass.

We remember how democracy began here: Sometimes with extremism and rallies. But yesterday's radicals grew up and matured literally before our very eyes, once they realized that no one was going to persecute them or throw them in jail and once they had walked the corridors of power and met representatives of Western democracy. Important parties in the republic nowadays are the "Atameken" Party, the People's Republic Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the "Asaba" Party, with whom one can deal as political partners.

Look, no party here—unlike the Baltic region, for example—is demanding that Russians be "forced" out of the country. Primitive calls like these are no longer possible in Kyrgyzstan's political life. On the contrary, the opposition now holds the government responsible for the fact that Russians are leaving. So it is no accident that at the recent opening of the Slavonic University in Bishkek President Askar Akayev appealed to the republic's Russian citizens to stay rather than leave, and to regard Kyrgyzstan as their home. Whether they regard it as their first or second home is up to them.

Democracy has straightened the path to a rule-of-law state. For a society where clan relationships are still strong, this is no abstract aim or slogan but a harsh necessity. It is terrifying to imagine what would happen to the republic if we were to allow some clan to start furiously paving the way to power, sweeping everyone from its path. These vestiges of the past still make themselves felt, instantly causing tension in society. But broad democracy exposes these latter-day khans as "different," clips their wings, and cools their ambitions.

[Berezovskiy] It is noticeable that the press has recently taken a "harder line" toward the president's team, which a number of prominent figures have left, and there is talk of backtracking and a wave of neoconservatism in the republic leadership. What lies behind this, and is the criticism fair?

[Kulov] "Askar Akayev's team" is no more than a stock phrase used by journalists. The paradox is that it has never existed. I should remind you that Askar Akayev appeared in the republic shortly before the presidential elections. He was not considered a rival for "diehards" like former "leaders" Omanbayev, Masaliyev, and Premier Dzhumagulov. I can now tell you that Chingiz Aytmatov was also invited to take up the post as head of state. But he refused, citing his age and his reluctance to stand in the way of younger leaders. Some people think Askar Akayev became president by accident. That is not so. A new man was required for the new tasks ahead. This atmosphere in society was sensed by the deputies, as fully confirmed in the nationwide presidential elections last year. Those who were more responsive and caught the mood of the time assumed leadership of the country together with Akayev. Yes, the ministers of education, finance, and agriculture later gave up their portfolios. But I must point out that neither they nor others were "removed" from the government. It was their choice, and it is quite possible that they will reappear in the government some time in the future. But there can be no talk of any backtracking.

[Berezovskiy] What about early presidential and parliamentary elections, on which some republic politicians are insisting?

[Kulov] The country cannot afford such luxury right now. We are approaching the deepest part of the ford in the market economy, and the situation is tense and will probably get worse. Stir things up at this stage, change horses in midstream, start a political squabble, and drag the people into it? That would be downright suicide! Anyone who thinks they could weather the storm is wrong. It would most likely end with a dictatorship, and a strong padlock would be hung on democracy. Surely that cannot be an attractive prospect for anyone?

[Berezovskiy] The problem of a north-south divide in the republic is raised increasingly often. Now there is even talk of virtual autonomy for Osh.

[Kulov] There is a problem, but often it is artificially exacerbated. Since time immemorial mountains have divided the Kyrgyz nation into two parts. Even today trains have to take a circuitous route via Uzbekistan, there is a mountain road there which is closed in winter in the passes, and there is air transport. The country's previous leader, Masaliyev, came from the south, and trouble began there as soon as he left. The president had a frank, tough talk on the subject with local leaders and dotted all the "i's." Yes, the north does have a certain advantage on account of its more powerful industry and its concentration of science and culture. We must not

forget, however, that the republic's development in the past was determined by Moscow in the interests of the Soviet Union as a whole, so complaints against the present leadership are absurd. Especially as the president is doing everything possible to open new higher education establishments in the south and takes maximum account of the region's interests when forming the budget and the government. I think the problem will be solved once and for all by a railway directly linking north and south. This idea has been put forward and is taking real shape.

The top leadership keeps an eye on the south, because interethnic relations there need constant monitoring. Plus the fact that it borders on Tajikistan, from where sparks could well reach us.

[Berezovskiy] It is well known that you personally favor Kyrgyzstan taking part in peacekeeping operations in the Pamirs. You yourself have been to the region several times during the civil war, trying to put an end to the discord.

[Kulov] We cannot pretend that the events in Tajikistan do not concern us. That would be political hypocrisy. We cannot sit it out—even if we set up triple barriers on every road—if Tajikistan comes "peddling its wares." That does not mean we have to take anyone's side. As in a family where two brothers have come to blows, the CIS peacekeeping forces must separate the two sides, pull them apart, and allow them to cool off. It is easier for us, the former Soviet republics, to understand one another than if the West were to be sent to the Pamirs in the shape of the "blue helmets." That is why there is a Kyrgyz battalion on the Afghan-Tajik border, where it will see its task through to completion.

I can understand those politicians in Russia who say: Let the old border regions go. It is a shortsighted policy, however. I should remind you that the USSR was one of the five largest Muslim countries in the world. If Turkestan explodes, I do not think Russia will have time either for reforms or for revival.

Chingyshev Addresses Economic Reform Conference

LD2910220293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1751 GMT 29 Oct 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Prime Minister Tursunbek Chingyshev has said that in a short period of time Kyrgyzstan has created conditions for a mixed economy although negative phenomena continued in the economy, particularly in agriculture. Opening a conference on results of the first stage of economic reform and ways to deepen them on Friday, the prime minister voiced hope that the production decline would be curbed by the end of the year.

The prime minister believes that at present Kyrgyzstan needs to come to understand the current situation, introduce changes to stabilize it economically and promote the restructuring of the economy. Chingyshev said that the government had worked out a draft program to promote the economic reforms for 1994-95. The draft program was discussed throughout the republic over the past month and is the main document in the package of economic measures, including the draft concept for denationalization of property for 1994-95, forecast and analysis for economic development for 1994-95, as well as the draft budget for 1994

According to Chingyshev, the nationwide discussion of the economic situation may help consolidate society. He also expressed hope that the conference, where economists, leaders of government ministries and departments and businessmen take part, as well as their proposals, will help make the program a working document for the government for several years to come.

Vice-Premier Esengul Omuraliyev, who delivered a report at the conference, spoke about some tactical mistakes by the government during the first stage of the reforms. He believes the government was unable to stabilize production and gross national income rates dropped by 15

. The government was also unable to keep agriculture and the fuel and energy complex at the necessary level. There were no radical shifts to stabilize payments inside the CIS.

Omuraliyev has called the main task for the second stage the need for macro-economic stabilization, curbing of inflation, structural changes in industry, the creation of a competitive market environment, maintenance of the social balance through concrete social sustainment.

President Akayev Signs Freedom of Speech Decree

LD3010203493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" program]

[Text] Today Askar Akayev, the President of Kyrgyzstan, signed a decree protecting freedom of speech and glasnost.

Tajikistan

Yeltin's Special Envoy Adamshin Visits Dushanbe

Meets With Rakhmanov

LD2910145193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1219 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By TIA "Khovar" correspondent Valeriy Zhukov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 29 Oct—"I had very good and thorough talks with Imamali Rakhmanov," Anatoliy

Adamishin, the Russian Federation's first deputy minister of foreign affairs and special envoy from Boris Yeltsin, told journalists after his meeting with the Tajik head of state and chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet. "We agreed that additional steps should be taken to achieve the political framework for a settlement of the situation that has arisen on the Tajik-Afghan border."

Asked whether the parties had made any progress in implementing the Moscow declaration and the commitments they had given, the Russian diplomat said that many provisions of the document were being fulfilled. "But things are bogged down in certain areas," he noted. "Above all, this applies to the dialogue between the country's leadership and forces of various political orientations."

Expressing Moscow's official position on this question, Anatoliy Adamishin remarked that "additional steps may be needed to make the dialogue more systematic and specific."

Vows Russia To Fulfill 'Obligations'

LD3010125793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1211 GMT 30 Oct 93

[By KHOVAR correspondent Valeriy Zhukov—TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe October 30 TASS—The Russian president's special envoy, Anatoliy Adamishin, deputy foreign minister, ended his visit to Tajikistan on Saturday. Asked by ITAR-TASS whether the situation in Tajikistan changed after his first visit to the republic late last July, the Russian diplomat replied the following.

"It has changed for the better in some respects. As for our approach to this issue, it has not. Russia claims as before that regional problems should be settled politically. However, we do not preclude a military rebuff.

"We shall fulfil our obligations in case of aggressive actions." The deputy minister noted that "The main accent is made on finding a common language with forces of various political affiliations, as it is recorded in the declaration of the heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States signed in Moscow last September 24".

During his visit to the republic, Adamishin had a lengthy tete-a- tete talk with Tajik leader Emomali Rakhmonov, met Tajik Premier Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov and was in permanent contact with republican Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov. He made a trip to mountainous Badakhshan.

Summarizes Aims of Visit

LD3010191293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Video report by K. Belov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Anatoliy Adamishin, special envoy of the Russian president, returned from a visit to Tajikistan today. His delegation included top officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Staff and the Command of the Border Troops.

[Begin Adamishin recording] As long as there is no stability and peace, as long as people have not made peace with each other and found some basis or some platform for living and working together, economic issues, and they are the core of the problem, will not be resolved. [end recording]

The main aim of the visit of such a representative Russian delegation was to compare notes with the republic's leadership yet again. The security of the entire Central Asian region essentially depends on the development of the situation in the republic.

During a private conversation, which was extremely frank, with Imamali Rakhmonov, leader of the Republic of Tajikistan, the envoy of the Russian president tried to find out the reasons for delay in implementation of the agreements reached by five parties last August and discussed ways of overcoming the obstacles to a constructive dialogue between the Tajik authorities and groupings of various political orientation. Russia believes that a tangle of internal and external contradictions cannot be untangled by military means. Therefore, wherever possible and in a subtle way, it tries to offer its mediatory services.

This was the aim of the delegation's visit to Khorog, center of Gorno-Badakhshan. During the talks with the leadership of this oblast, which is virtually isolated from the republic's other regions, the Russian representatives studied the possibilities of increasing aid to the Pamir people who are in mild opposition to Dushanbe. At the same time they took a careful and close look at the experience of removing political confrontation in this, relatively calm, part of Tajikistan. [video shows Adamishin interviewed on board plane; arrival of delegation in Dushanbe; meeting between Adamishin and Rakhmonov; talks with leadership of Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast]

Russian Border Post Fired On From Afghanistan

LD0111113793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0802 GMT 1 Nov 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Nov—The 12th border post of the Moscow border detachment in Tajikistan was fired on twice yesterday. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today at the press bureau of the Russian border troops that fire was returned.

On the same day, an armed breakthrough attempted by fighters from Afghanistan was foiled in the section of the Khorog border detachment. After an exchange of fire, the border violators retreated to the adjoining territory.

There were no casualties among the Russian border troops. The same source said that there are no details of the casualties among the fighters.

Rakhmanov Wants UN To Examine Afghan Border Situation

LD2910213493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1827 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 29 Oct—Tajikistan has called for a UN Security Council session to be convened in order to examine the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, and to support the efforts of the CIS countries' peace-keeping coalition forces to settle the conflict. This is said in a letter by Imamali Rakhmanov, the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, circulated today in the headquarters of the community of nations as a Security Council document.

"The leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan," the document says, "is making every effort to normalize the situation in the country. However, the process for stabilizing the situation is being hampered by the ongoing tense situation along the Tajik-Afghan border. On the neighboring territory armed bandit formations, that are carrying out systematic armed border penetrations, are being trained by foreign instructors. There are human casualties. The humanitarian situation also remains critical."

Tajikistan is convinced that the continuing tension on the Tajik- Afghan border poses a serious threat to regional and international peace and security, and demands the close attention of the UN Security Council...[TASS punctuation] In the conditions that have arisen, we believe that it is extremely important that the Security Council calls on all interested parties to refrain from any actions that might lead to a further escalation of the conflict, in particular from training of opposition armed formations on the territory of another state.

"The setting up of coalition peace-keeping forces of five CIS member states on our country's territory was an important step on the path to stopping an escalation of the conflict. The Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Kazakhstan, which formed these forces, see them as a regional agreement in accordance with the principles of Chapter VII of the UN Charter. It is important that the Security Council notes this important fact, and supports close cooperation between the United Nations and these regional efforts within the framework of the Commonwealth which are aimed at moving toward a comprehensive political settlement," I. Rakhmanov stressed.

Uzbekistan

President Karimov on 3-Day Visit to France

Meets With Mitterrand

LD2910174893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Uzbekistan's President Karimov is on a three-day visit to France. Our correspondent Yevgeniy Lukyanov reports from Paris:

[Lukyanov] The first visit to the French capital by the Uzbek head of state, Islam Karimov, was marked by his meeting and conversations with President Francois Mitterrand in the Elysee Palace. There, too, in the presence of France's president, Islam Karimov signed the Paris Charter of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The leaders of the two countries also signed the interstate French-Uzbek friendship and cooperation treaty. Two more bilateral economic and scientific-technical documents were signed which enabled President Mitterrand to note in his address the festivity of the moment from which a new era in relations between France and Uzbekistan, an active period of all-round exchange begins. He said that he will be be paying an official visit to Tashkent three-four months from now.

After Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, whose leaders have already previously visited France, Paris has started establishing close relations with another major Central Asian country, Uzbekistan, which occupies an important place in the region. The sides are devoting their main attention to economic cooperation. Paris is encouraging French entrepreneurs to show more interest in the Uzbek economy which has considerable potential—this mainly applies to cooperation in the sphere of power engineering, air transportation, means of communication, agricultural foodstuffs, and the textile industry. So far the volume of trade between the two countries is very insigificant: 230 million francs in imports and 30 million francs in exports from France.

During his visit President Karimov will have meetings with French entrepreneurs and will visit the aviation enterprise of the Dassault firm in Bordeaux. As can be seen, the Central Asian region of the former USSR, is becoming a sphere of increased attention, both economic and industrial, for France.

Visits Construction, Aviation Plants

LD2910220193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2107 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Batyrev]

[Text] Paris October 29 TASS—The third day of a French state visit of Uzbek President Islam Karimov was wholly devoted to Uzbek- French economic cooperation.

In the morning the president visited the headquarters of the Bouygues French major construction concern in the town of Saint- Quentin en Yvelines in the suburbs of Paris. A possibility of Bouygues participation in a number of projects on Uzbek territory is being discussed.

In the afternoon Karimov came to a plant of the Dassault aviation concern in a Bordeaux suburbs of Marignac. The plant assemblies military aircraft Mirage-2000 and Alphajet and civilian airplanes Falcon.

In the words of a Dassault aviation representative, Uzbek purchases of Falcon aircraft are not excluded, as these planes are good for Uzbek climatic conditions.

A dinner on behalf of chairman of the Ault de Saint Region's general council and Minister of the Interior Charles Pasqua was given in honor of the Uzbek president tonight.

On Saturday the president will leave for Tashkent.

Completes Visit

LD3010134893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1254 GMT 30 Oct 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Batyrev]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Oct—Islam Karimov, the president of Uzbekistan, has left Paris for Tashkent today, having completed his state visit to France. In the course of his visit to that country Uzbekistan's president had talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, and other French leaders.

During his visit I. Karimov signed the Paris Charter for New Europe—the principal document of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. A treaty on friendship and cooperation between France and Uzbekistan and a number of intergovernmental agreements were also signed.

Intruders Killed on Border With Afghanistan

LD2910190693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] A group of gunmen crossed a small border river between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan Thursday and attempted to cross over to Uzbek territory. A spokesman for Uzbekistan's National Security Service said on Friday that the intruders opened fire to kill in response to preventive shooting by Uzbek border guards

During the exchange of fire that followed two intruders were killed, while the rest retreated to the adjacent Afghan territory. The Uzbek side suffered no casualties.

The spokesman said that the republic's relevant bodies started investigating the border incident. Attempts are being made to establish the intruders' identity.

Armenia

Azerbaijani Attacks in Southern Karabakh Reported

NC2910152993 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1408 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Yerevan, 29 Oct (ARMENPRES)—The Azerbaijani side continues to disregard the cease-fire agreement. Azerbaijani troops deployed in Fizulinskiy Rayon launched an attack yesterday evening under cover of intensive shelling of the Karabakh Defense Army's positions near Buyukh-Bakhmanly. The Karabakh forces managed to repel the attack. Having suffered losses in men and material, the enemy was forced to withdraw to its initial positions. One Armenian fighter was killed and five others were injured.

Karabakh Defense Army positions near Chakhbulakh in Agdamskiy Rayon came under fire last night, but there were no casualties.

A relative calm prevails on the rest of the battlefront. According to reconnaissance information gathered by the Karabakh side, the [words indistinct] of the Azerbaijani units deployed in Zangelanskiy Rayon is being observed.

Azerbaijani Forces Reportedly Shell Southern Border

NC2910212993 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reports that the Azerbaijani formations in Zangelanskiy Rayon resumed the massive shelling of the Armenia's southeastern borders at 0600 this morning, using heavy artillery. The defensive positions in Megrinskiy Rayon came under fire. Whenever needed, the Armenian forces retaliated. The shelling stopped at 1300. Casualty figures are being determined.

Azerbaijani Forces Withdraw from Zangelan Into Iran

NC3010144893 Yerevan SNARK in English 1159 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Stepanakert, October 30 (SNARK)—The Karabakh detachments were ordered not to enter the Zangelan region settlements, the press-service of the Karabakh defense department told SNARK. According to the data received by the Karabakh reconnaissance, those Azerbaijani detachments which were distributed on the territory of the Zangelan region crossing the Araks River left the Zangelan region for neighboring Iran.

Meanwhile the Karabakh defense department told SNARK last night and this morning no serious events took place at the Karabakh fronts.

President Discusses Talks With France's Mitterrand

LD2910200393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1946 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Paris October 29 TASS—In the past six months France has seriously intensified its participation in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem within the framework of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the Minsk group, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia who is currently on a visit to Paris, said here on Friday.

Commenting on his meeting and talks with President Francois Mitterrand, which was held on Thursday, the Armenian leader expressed hope that France would continue its efforts in this direction, particularly on the consolidation of intermediary actions by the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, United Nations and Russia in the Karabakh settlement.

In the course of the meeting the two sides also discussed the problem of the delivery of international humanitarian aid to the Transcaucasian region. According to Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Armenia is prepared to provide all its communications for the delivery of relief supplies to Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan, hoping that other countries will do the same. Irrespective of the further development of events in the region, the international community should make efforts so that both Armenia and Azerbaijan receive humanitarian aid, the Armenian president stressed.

A similar proposal was earlier handed over to Turkey.

Completes Visit to France

LD3110211393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2052 GMT 31 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Paris October 31 TASS—Armenian President Levon Ter- Petrosyan concluded his five-day working visit to France on Sunday. He was in France for the inauguration of an exhibition devoted to the history and art of the Cilician Armenian state (the 12th-14th centuries).

Meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand in the Elysee Palace, the Armenian leader discussed with him prospects for bilateral relations, settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, problem of delivering humanitarian aid to the Transcaucasian region.

Before taking a plane Ter-Petrosyan told ITAR-TASS that he is satisfied with the results of the visit and of the exchange of opinions with French leaders.

Prime Minister Cited on Importance of Call-Up

NC0111104893 Yerevan SNARK in English 0919 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Yerevan, November 1 (SNARK)—Today Armenia is starting with the autumn call-up. The Armenian state defense minister, head of the Call-Up Commission, said that "the current call-up will depend upon the future of Armenia".

The Armenian Defense Department told SNARK some of those who are being called up for military service will serve in those detachments of the Russian Army which are distributed on the territory of Armenia and those detachments defending the border with Turkey and Iran.

According to the data of military specialists, the National Army of Armenia has formated for 1 year and now is the most power among the others in Transcaucasia. There are 50 thousand soldiers in it.

"We'll do our best to fulfill the autumn call-up 100 per cent" said Grant Bagratyan, the prime minister of Armenia. According to him the National Army of Armenia will be completely provided with outfit and necessary equipment, nutrition during nearest months.

Diplomat: Leave Karabakh Outside Armenia, Azerbaijan

MK3010134093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Oct 93 p 3

[Armen Khanbabyan report under the "Transcaucasus" rubric: "Nagorno-Karabakh Outside Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenian Diplomat Sees This as Face-Saving Way Out of War"]

[Text] The outward indifference with which the Yerevan authorities have been watching the successive change of leaders in Azerbaijan does not mean that Armenian politicians do not take into account possible changes in their neighbor's policy. In particular, the return of Geydar Aliyev, who bets on the reputation of an "experienced and strong" leader, gave ground to believe that he would be capable of unconventional political initiatives overstepping the rigid limits that have been set earlier.

Ashot Melik-Shakhnazaryan, adviser to the Armenian foreign minister, thinks that Aliyev's restoration seemed to be a development that could have contributed to ending the Karabakh conflict, had the current Baku leader summoned his courage to concede that a Nagorno-Karabakh outside both Azerbaijan and Armenia is a face-saving way out of the war and a guarantee of the equal future cooperation between the two peoples, who are destined to live side by side. This is why, in the Armenian diplomat's words, the pronouncements Aliyev made during the election campaign—that Azerbaijan should boost the combat effectiveness of its army and recapture by force lands seized by the Armenians—were perceived in Stepanakert and Yerevan as the inevitable appeasement of a certain part of the electorate.

Presently, however, he thinks that apart from the arguments of force, with which Karabakh is already familiar, there are no unconventional proposals or original approaches to the problem in the new president's arsenal. Meanwhile, Melik-Shakhnazaryan emphasized, currently these arguments do not go down well; not only because in the past few years the war lost its appeal even in Azerbaijan, but Aliyev returned to a different country—at least Karabakh is clearly no longer what it had been when Aliyev was first secretary of the republic's Communist Party.

But the authorities in Baku are unlikely to make any substantial adjustments to their attitude to the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, judging, among other things, from the line of conduct of Azerbaijani diplomats, who, in Melik-Shakhnazaryan's view, have been effectively blocking the work of the CSCE Minsk group. It is well known that Azerbaijan has already rejected the CSCE's timetable for establishing a long-term truce, and, moreover, brought Russia's latest peacemaking initiatives to naught. Meanwhile, Baku has expressed its willingness to agree on a six-month ceasefire—without bringing in international observers or giving guarantees that the truce will be observed. In the current conditions, this may lead to what may amount to a repetition of the events that occurred in late October in the southern sector of the Karabakh front. The adviser to the foreign minister emphasized that this strengthened the impression that Aliyev needed the truce only to obtain a respite and to try to restore Azerbaijan's military potential so that it could be relied upon to try "to end the war." This, as he sees it, means to win it by making the Karabakhis submit.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Confirms Loss of Zangelan

NC3010160393 Baku AZERTAC in English 1238 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, October, 30—Stating about ceasefire, which is ostensibly being observed by the Armenian party, Armenians are attacking the south-west region of Azerbaijan. According to the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan, the Armenian armed forces seized Zangelan (the main town of the Zangelan district of Azerbaijan) this midnight. The greater part of the Zangelan district is occupied by the enemy. Despite the fact that the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry troops are suffering heavy casualties they are checking the enemy advance to the village of Minjevan that borders on Iran.

Civilian population, which is suffering heavy casualties, has been trying to cross the frontier to Iran for several days. Fate of encircled soldiers and people is under a threat.

Fighting Continues in Area

LD3010162293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1440 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, 30 Oct (AZERTAC - TASS)—While talking about a unilateral cease-fire, the Armenian side is developing large-scale offensives in southwestern Azerbaijan. At midnight today, Armenian armed forces captured Zangelan, the administrative center of the republic's rayon of the same name, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reports.

According to the Defense Department, a sizeable part of Zangelanskiy rayon has been occupied, and subunits of Azerbaijan's armed forces and self-defense forces are fighting continuously and, sustaining enormous losses, are holding on to a number of inhabited localities, including the village of Mindzhevan on the border with Iran.

The civilian population, among whom there are numerous casualties, the Defense Ministry reports, has been trying during the past few days to cross into Iranian territory. The fate of the fighters and civilians who have been cut off is unknown.

Baku on Armenian Forces' Buildup Near Beilagan

LD3110181193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] A source in the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reports that the concentration of Armenian forces continued on Sunday near the borders of the Beilagan region. The populated areas located near the Beilagan and Fizuli regions were shelled. The Fizuli region has been occupied by Armenian formations.

The same source says that about 40,000 Azerbaijani refugees from the blocked south-western regions of Azerbaijan have got concentrated in the Iranian territory.

Experts Expect Armenian Attacks on Three Fronts

LD3110181293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] A source close to the Azerbaijani president told Interfax on Sunday that the seizure of the railway terminal and the village of Gordiaz, and the attack on and occupation of the Zangelan region by Armenian forces had put Azerbaijan in a critical position. As a result of the Armenian offensive, four south-western regions have been lost, he said, as a result of which another 60,000 people will become refugees.

Now that winter is approaching the problem of refugees will become the Baku authorities problem number one, he said.

The same source says that according to unofficial information, the population of the Beilagan region near which Armenian forces are getting concentrated, are leaving their homes. This process may assume an "avalanche character", he added.

Asked what measures the Azerbaijani leaders were going to take, this source stated that Baku was likely to intensify its diplomatic efforts. He also said that the Azerbaijani authorities pinned great hopes on the CSCE and UN. Serious consultations are to be held with the neighboring states and the U.S., he went on to say.

He expressed hope that given the Armenian aggression the CIS mechanism would be put into action at last. Azerbaijan reckons on the assistance from the "fraternal Central Asian republics," he said.

Azerbaijani military experts anticipate Armenian attacks in three directions: Beilagan, Imishly (east of the four south-western regions already occupied), Geranboy and the north-western borders of Azerbaijan, where the main railways and the oil pipeline linking Azerbaijan and Georgia run.

Tensions High in Armenian Conflict; Army Criticized

LD3110210793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 31 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Tension remained high in the area of the Armenian-Azeri conflict today. As a result of an Armenian offensive, Azerbaijan has now lost four rayons in the southwest of the republic. Up to 40,000 Azeri refugees are currently forced to stay on Iranian territory.

Azerbaijan's state secretary Hajiyeva, who had visited the Iranian bank of the Araks river, has severely criticized the actions of the Azeri army while speaking on national television. According to the state secretary, there have been incidents of mass flight of servicemen from their positions, and large amounts of ammunition—enough for five wars—has been left behind in the occupied areas.

Aliyev Asks UN To Impose Sanctions on Armenia

LD2910204993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1859 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations, 29 Oct—Azerbaijan has called for an emergency session of the UN Security Council to be convened in order to adopt sanctions against

Armenia. This was said in a letter by Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev circulated today in the UN headquarters as a Security Council document.

"The tragic development of events in the Republic of Azerbaijan caused by the new escalation of aggression by the Republic of Armenia against my country has forced me once again to appeal to the Security Council," Geydar Aliyev's letter notes.

Gasanov Addresses Security Council Envoys on Zangelan

LD3010184193 Baku Radio Baku International Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The foreign minister of Azerbaijan, Gasan Gasanov, invited the extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassadors in Baku of the Security Council permanent member nations, the United States of America, Great Britain, France, Russia, and China, to the Foreign Ministry in connection with the sharp aggravation of the situation in the Armenian-Azerbaijanian conflict zone. We remind you that the aggravation is caused by the recent escalation of Armenia's aggression in the district of Zangelan. Mr. Gasanov informed them about Armenian Armed Forces' widescale offensive in the southwestern district of Azerbaijan, as a result of which the district of Zangelan with its population of 60,000 people is completely encircled by Armenian forces. Mr. Gasanov appealed to the ambassadors to convey this information urgently to the governments of their countries so that, being the Security Council permanent member nations, they take corresponding measures in the United Nations Organization to stop Armenia's aggression against our country.

Simultaneously, Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov appealed to the current chairman of the CSCE, Margaretha af Ugglas; the chairman of the Minsk group of the CSCE, Mario Rafelli; the foreign ministers of Russia and Turkey, Andrey Kozyrev and Hikmet Cetin. The messages contain information about the sharply aggravated situation in the Azerbaijanian district of Zangelan, which is completely encircled by Armenian Armed Forces. The foreign minister of Azerbaijan has called on the CSCE, the chairman of the Minsk group of the CSCE, the heads of the foreign policy departments of Russia and Turkey to take emergency measures to stop Armenia's aggression against our country. Notes with analogous content have also been addressed to the embassies of the UN Security Council permanent member nations as well as to the Embassy of Greece, whose charge d'affaires is the representative of the European Community in Azerbaijan.

Talks on Nagorno-Karabakh To Continue in Vienna

LD2910191893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Another round of the Minsk CSCE group consultations on Nagorno-Karabakh, where the group will discuss remarks by the parties concerned on the recent version of the group's urgent measures to settle the conflict, will be held in Vienna November 2. The statement was made by the first deputy Armenian Foreign Minister Zhirair Liparitian at a briefing in Yerevan Friday.

He described the upcoming meeting as a sort of a crucial one because unless the mutually acceptable schedule was accepted, the Minsk process would be under serious threat. He said that the fears are based on the fact that since 1991 the Minsk group has been able to adopt only the document on mandate for observers.

The diplomat believes the Minsk process lags far behind the developments. The Minsk group and its leaders do not advance their proposals, he said, and wait when the conflicting sides put forward their conditions. Given such a stand, the CSCE will have to start from scratch whatever changes in the military situation, he said. Liparitian noted that today there was no alternative to solve the Karabakh problem but within the CSCE framework.

Speaking about the prospects for direct talks between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh with Russia's mediation, Liparitian said that Azerbaijan sees such talks as technical, while Karabakh as political.

Kazakh Envoy Presents Credentials, States Support

NC3010160993 Baku AZERTAC in English 1049 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, October 30 (AZERTAC)—Kazakhstan does not uphold a neutral position in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Our state holds a position of recognition of territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan republic, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan, Mr. Ibrahim Amangaliyev said.

The ambassador presented his credentials to President Aliyev today.

Ambassador Amangaliyev said his country was ready to participate in the CSCE Minsk groups peace-making efforts directed to resolution of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Karabakh Speaker: Territory in Return for Recognition

NC2910130893 Paris AFP in English 1257 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Stepanakert, Oct 29 (AFP)—Baku must recognize the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh if it want to recover Azerbaijan regions on the Iranian border lost over the past few days, the parliamentary speaker from the separatist region of [Nagorno-Karabakh] Karen Baburyan told AFP.

"We are ready to return the seized territories (in southwest Azerbaijan), at any time on the sole condition that Nagorno-Karabakh is recognized as an independent republic," Baburyan said.

Georgia

Roundup of Activities by Head of State Shevardnadze

Departs for Western Region

LD2910184193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state and chairman of parliament, has today left for west Georgia where the situation has been extremely aggravated since the intrusion of the North Caucasian irregulars. In connection with this, Shevardnadze said the following in an interview before his departure:

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] These are detachments of the confederation [Confederation of the Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus], the well-known confederation, up to 300 of them—we consider this is a serious problem, a serious force. We received information today that military equipment and hardware is being redeployed to that area, toward Inguri. [end recording]

The Georgian Government regards the recent developments as an escalation of aggression against a sovereign state and expresses the hope that the Russian Government will duly state its attitude to the illegal actions that are taking place, in accordance with its international obligations. [video shows Shevardnadze being interviewed in an office, a kind of fortress with the Russian flag on top, refugees wandering near a railway]

Views Kutaisi Military Situation

LD2910174193 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and chief of state, left for Kutaisi this evening.

The chief of state was met at the airport by Kutaisi Mayor Temur Shashiashvili, Georgian Defense Minister Gia Karkarashvili, and other heads of the military establishment.

In his interview with journalists at the airport, Eduard Shevardnadze said it is time to put an end to what is going on in western Georgia today. The aim of my visit here is to study for myself with the new situation here after the units of Abkhaz mercenaries joined the rebels.

An operational military conference is now under way.

Says Senaki Withdrawal 'Temporary'

LD3010175793 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] As you know, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, arrived in Kutaisi yesterday. After a working meeting at the mayor's office, he visited Samtredia and Abasha to familiarize himself with the situation on the spot.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Reporter] What is your assessment of the current developments in Samegrelo [Mingrelia]?

[Shevardnadze] What happened yesterday is known. There was a rather complex situation regarding Senaki. To avoid unnecessary casualties, a decision was made prior to my arrival to withdraw the armed forces from Senaki. I think that yesterday's decision was right, despite the fact that it is a serious step backward.

Yesterday and today, all through the night, serious work was going on to mobilize reinforcements. This work continued today. I can say now that the numbers and forces which are necessary to improve the situation and solve the tasks we have set ourselves have been concentrated here in Abasha and also in the Senaki region, Poti, Samtredia, Khoni and so on.

Yesterday's setback is temporary and I think it is only a matter of time before we reverse it and even solve a bigger task. I am sure that this will be done. [end recording]

Visits Abasha Army Commanders

LD3010194193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Fierce fighting continues in western Georgia. Towns in the region are constantly changing hands as control over them is established in turn by government troops and armed supporters of Gamsakhurdia, the ex-president. Here is a report by correspondent Nikolay Mamulashvili:

[Mamulashvili] [passage omitted] On 30 October Teymuraz Shashiashvili, mayor of the town of Kutaisi, said in a conversation with me that the situation is fairly complex. In his words, armed Zviadists, stopping at nothing in their offensive operation, are using artillery - including Grad missile launchers - to shell the residential areas of towns. Government troops, on the contrary, fearing for the life of local inhabitants, cannot use their firepower to the full. Therefore the army command has demanded that the Zviadists either lay down their arms or fully evacuate the population of the town of Senaki.

Meanwhile, the command of the government troops held a conference in Kutaisi, at which a decision was adopted to toughen troop discipline in order to prevent panic, nonfulfillment of commanders' orders, and cases of marauding.

Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state, has been in the zone of armed conflict since the evening of 29 October. He has already visited the towns of Samtredia and Kutaisi. On the morning of 30 October he arrived in Abasha. The head of state met Georgian Army soldiers and commanders. The main aim of Shevardnadze's visit is to acquaint himself directly with the situation in the provinces.

Denies Insisting on Russian Troops' Fighting

LD3010204293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Video report by N.Kandiashvili; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Issues connected with the guarding of railways and highways going through Georgia to Armenia and Azerbaijan are causing concern not only to the citizens of these republics but to the Russian people as well. There were rumors that the Russian military were taking or would be taking part in the hostilities on the side of Georgian Government troops. However, this does not correspond to the facts. We have put questions linked with the guarding of the means of communication to Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state, who noted:

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] Honestly, we did not insist on the participation of Russian units in military operations, understanding that, in principle, such an action would be undesirable for us as well as for Russia itself. [End recording]

On Atrocities, Russian Aid

LD3010210993 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1740 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Interview with Georgian Supreme Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—live or recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Shevardnadze] The main element is the confederation. You know about the assessment of the confederation given by Russian law enforcement and judicial bodies. It was described as a criminal and unregistered organization. So, we are dealing with a serious enemy, a very serious enemy.

In my opinion, Russia must understand what is happening. What is being carried out against Georgia, the aggression, occupation of its territory - I have in mind Abkhazia and part of Samegrelo, which they have entered—and the expansion...[pauses] Russia must understand, and I think it understands by now, that these crimes are directed against both Russian and Georgian interests. Georgian and Russian interests are in agreement when it comes to a struggle against this confederation.

[Correspondent] Has Russia started to meet its obligations as envisaged by the agreement?

[Shevardnadze] Yesterday I familiarized myself with what was being done. Today I had a meeting with officers and soldiers who are involved in the guarding of the railway. These are mechanized groups. We had very interesting and good meetings. I can say today that Russian military units, though they are not large, are practically involved in the guarding of the railways. In some places this also includes adjacent territories, because they cannot guard the railway if an adjacent territory is damaged [as heard]. What happened in Senaki yesterday has, of course, delayed this. And we will probably discuss with appropriate officials ways of continuing our negotiations after yesterday's events. I am satisfied with their work, their coordination with us. They were acting within the framework of the agreement. [two minute-long passage indistinct]

[Shevardnadze] I must tell you that a vast majority of our troops are fighting bravely and faithfully. I know a lot of our boys. I am proud of knowing them and of being their fellow citizen. However, there are some—as we often say, even if there is one such a man, it is too much and, unfortunately, the number is higher than one—who are discrediting Georgia, their families, their good names, and their cause. And not only discrediting. They have inflicted too much pain on their people. Today I met some suffering people, and there are also others whom I failed to meet. There are people in Abasha who have suffered. They have been robbed of some of their possessions.

All this seems to me like a horrible tumour on a healthy Georgian body. There are appropriate laws to deal with such crimes. However, events have unfolded so fast that law enforcement bodies do not have enough time to tackle many of such incidents.

It is often said that the commander in chief should issue an order authorizing on-the-spot executions. Such demands may be right, but they are legally flawed. A decision taken without a prior investigation may lead to the execution of an innocent man, which cannot be allowed to happen. We must intensify our struggle by legal means. This should be happening today, tomorrow, and in the future. There should not be talk in the future about elements in the Georgian Army who are committing crimes against their own people. I am profoundly concerned and worried by incidents that came to my knowledge.

Confident of Victory in West

LD3010213293 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1815 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Answering a Georgian radio correspondent's question about the situation in Senaki, Eduard Shevardnadze, the republic's leader, said today that the withdrawal of government troops from the town had been caused not only by the arrival of North

Caucasian mercenaries in areas of hostilities, but also by shortcomings in the preparation of our Armed Forces, as well as the moral fatigue of soldiers who have gone through the hardships of war. However, the main factor was interference in the conflict by armed units of the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus. "We must not underestimate our enemy," he asserted.

Eduard Shevardnadze went on to say that what happened in Abkhazia should not be allowed to recur in western Georgia and, therefore, appropriate measures must be taken. The Georgian Government and Armed Forces are not only able to regain the lost ground, but can also advance and drive away the invaders from the republic's territory. The speed of achieving victory will depend on a number of important factors. The complex situation in the republic must also be taken into account, he said.

On Situation Around Khobi, Senaki

LD3010190693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1825 GMT 30 Oct 93

[By GIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 30 October—As has already been reported, armed units supporting the ex-president, with the active support of Abkhaz and north Caucasian fighters, made a wide-scale attack in the early hours of 30 October in the direction of the towns of Khobi and Senaki and re-took them. A correspondent of the Georgian Information Agency made telephone contact with head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, who is in the hostilities zone.

The president said: "Today, as is usual in such a situation, we got together with the military and made a thorough analysis of what had occurred the previous day. In the course of the day, there was a concentration of forces from various regions of Georgia. We now have enough people and the necessary equipment. Good cooperation has emerged with the unit of Russian troops guarding the railway on the given section of western Georgia. Unfortunately, yesterday, after government troops left Senaki, a terrible tragedy occurred there. According to witnesses who managed to get out of Senaki, not only military personnel but also many civilians were shot.

"Everything is being done to ensure that the confederates sent by the hand of the Zviadists get the punishment they deserve."

Plans To 'Finish' Gamsakhurdia

AU3110143093 Paris AFP in English 0756 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Abasha, Georgia, Oct 31 (AFP)—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze arrived here overnight to take personal control of his troops after they lost two key western towns and planned Sunday to visit the battlefront.

Shevarnadze said it was absolutely necessary to "finish once and for all with" former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Georgian forces abandoned the towns of Khobi and Senaki after a counter-offensive by Gamsakhurdia loyalists, reportedly helped by the arrival of reinforcements from the North Caucasus, which also helped Abkhazian separatists expel Georgian government troops.

"Our men are tired. After a year of Abkhazia, defeat and now this war against other Georgians...it is normal that they should be weary. But I believe at the same time that they understand that it is absolutely necessary for Georgia to finish with this once and for all."

Shevardnadze has set up his headquarters in Abasha, the last town before the battlefront, which is now at the outskirts of Senaki.

He held lengthy talks Saturday with his military chiefs of staff and was due to visit the front on Sunday to boost the morale of the Georgian government troops.

Thanks Kravchuk for Assistance

LD3110085793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the state of Georgia and chairman of parliament, yesterday spoke on the telephone with President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk.

Shevardnadze thanked Kravchuk for his help to Georgia during the times of hardship, especially for the great help in evacuating the refugees from Abkhazia.

Leonid Kravchuk expressed alarm over the current situation in Georgia and on behalf of his people promised support to our country.

Directs Army, Prepares Counterattack

AU3110142593 Paris AFP in English 1347 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Senaki, Georgia, Oct 31 (AFP)—Georgian government troops, apparently recovered from the panic and tiredness of a rout here by rebels backing ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, prepared on Sunday for a counter-attack.

Unit commanders conferred with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze at nearby Abasha, the last town before the new front line on the outskirts of Senaki.

They examined ways to strengthen discipline so as to prevent the scenes of panic of last Friday when the army soldiers fled from Senaki, which they had taken on Wednesday. In a television interview, Shevardnadze, who has come to direct operations in person, spoke of the "tragedy" of Senaki. He said the Gamsakhurdia loyalists had killed civilians as well as soldiers.

On the front line, soldiers who fled last week saying they would go home were on Sunday talking about returning to the attack. "We are exactly where we were four days ago, it is really heartbreaking," a junior officer said.

"I do not know why we did not attack this morning. My men were ready, but the order never came."

His commanding officer refused to give any explanation, but hinted that an attack was being prepared for the end of the day or Monday morning.

It was relatively calm at the front line, facing the bridge over the Tekhuli river leading into the town. There were a few artillery exchanges, unlike Saturday's quite sustained missile fire on government ranks.

"We cannot fire on them because they are planted in the town, but they do not hesitate to shoot even on places where they know there are civilians," an artillery man said.

Dozens of families were heading for Abasha to get away from the fighting. "We spent all day yesterday in the cellar, and as soon as things calmed down this morning we decided to leave," said a 30- year-old woman with a babe in arms and a little girl. "But I know that means that when we get back there will be nothing left, since the Mkedhrioni (Georgian troopers) take everything," she added.

"Yesterday evening they pillaged all the empty houses around mine."

Visits Front Line

LD3110194393 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian parliament chairman, head of state, and Armed Forces commander in chief, today left the operational military headquarters near Kutaisi for the frontline separating the opposing sides.

He visited and talked with fighters at one of the air defense units. He asked questions about their combat readiness, the state of their equipment, and the food supply situation.

Later he travelled via Losiri and other villages to the frontline proper, where he familiarized himself with the operational situation and examined the fighters' progress in fulfilling their tasks.

In an interview with Georgian television, which will be broadcast tomorrow, Mr. Shevardnadze responded to the journalist Tamar Dekanosidze's question on whether what was happening in Georgia today is a civil war. He said: Unfortunately, that's what it is. The analysis of its causes is a separate matter. However, there is in effect a civil war in Georgia today. We have failed to avert it. Despite the fact that we have done everything to avert this calamity—and everything has been done to unite Georgia—we have to get through this plague, and the faster we do it the better. I have always tended to make compromises; however, today, this will bring us more casualties. The deep confrontation that exists today must produce one result—and that is a guarantee of preserving a single Georgia.

After reviewing government forces on the Senaki frontline, Shevardnadze left for Poti. On the approaches to the town, he met soldiers and officers from one of the tank battalions of the Russian Army stationed in Georgia. The discussion dealt with plans for joint action to provide for the normal functioning of the section of Transcaucasian railway that passes through Georgia.

Interviewed on Situation in West

LD0111112393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state and parliamentary chairman, by unidentified CONTACT news agency correspondent on 31 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] What is your assessment of the situation?

[Shevardnadze] It looks as if it is meaningless to say that our position is good and advantageous. At a time when our country is torn apart, it is difficult to speak of any success. However, our armed forces considerably (?strengthened) their positions today. We should probably have the hope of a very serious breakthrough.

As I have said before, the main trouble is that groups of Abkhazians and Chechens are operating in several rayons, and are despoiling the population, burning (?houses). Unfortunately, we have not yet reached them, though we will probably have to put an end to it in a few days.

[correspondent] We have given our assessment of this in our reports. Could you be more specific in describing these aspects?

[Shevardnadze] I think that the decision made by the Confederation [of Caucasian Peoples] must be published in our press, so that all our citizens and all Georgians, in the first place, get to know kkwith whom we are dealing. Everything has become evident. Everything can now be seen in its true colors. The objectives and tasks which the confederates, fundamentalists of all sorts—be it of Islamic, Bolshevik or other origin—pursued in Abkhazia are now being pursued in Mingrelia and throughout Georgia.

I think that the content of their letter, which I read yesterday, must become known to all our citizens; then we will grasp how fierce the battles are and how serious are the problems which we have to tackle. [Words indistinct] we must understand how harsh a destiny our country has been allotted throughout its history. We must be ready for anything.

Zviadist Forces Fire on Russian Troops Near Senaki

LD3010131093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] According to an ITAR-TASS report, armed Zviadist formations continue to develop a counteroffensive against state troops, and are moving toward Samtredia. Earlier they seized the town of Senaki. During the fight for this town the Zviadists fired at a post of the Russian troops guarding the the main railroad, the agency reports. The Russian servicemen were forced to retaliate. After, so as to ensure the safety of the Russian servicemen and so that they should not be drawn into the conflict, they were ordered to withdraw from the combat zone.

Russian Troops Ordered To Withdraw

LD3010113693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Russian servicemen in Western Georgia, who were there to defend the railway, have been ordered to leave the zone of combat actions between Georgian state troops and the Zviadists in the environs of the town of Senaki. The order was given because of a successful counterattack by Gamsakhurdia's supporters.

Russian Posts To Be Reinforced

LD3010140393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1337 GMT 30 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 30 Oct— Armed antigovernment formations of Gamsakhurdia supporters today fired on a post manned by servicemen of the Group of Russian forces in Transcaucasia. The post was protecting a railway installation in the town of Senaki. No one was hurt. It was later decided that the group's posts will be reinforced with armored equipment.

Russian Troops Remain in Abasha

LD0111121693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1125 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Russian troops guarding the railroad bridge on the Tekhuri River near the western Georgian town of Senaki, and which withdrew from their positions as the town was captured by supporters of ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia are still in Abasha. Colonel Gennadiy Dolgachyov, head of the Russian Army Group in Transcaucasia's press service, told Interfax that they would resume guard duty as soon the situation in Senaki stabilizes.

Dolgachyov has, in effect, denied a Reuters report that Russian troops did not withdraw from Senaki with Georgian government forces.

The press service head said that Russian troops protecting the railroad had not been attacked during the past day.

Fighting Continues in Senaki-Zugdidi Region in West

State Forces Control Abasha Rayon, Poti

LD2910174693 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Soso Margishvili, head of the Georgian Defense Ministry's press center, reported from Kutaisi that government forces have in effect taken complete control over the Abasha and Senaki rayons and the town of Poti.

Battles are under way at the approaches to Senaki.

Zviadists Reportedly Capture Senaki

LD3010121993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1140 GMT 30 Oct 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 30 Oct—Armed formations of supporters of Georgian ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia today captured the town of Senaki in the west of the republic. On the previous day, they occupied the town of Khobi and are now continuing to develop the counteroffensive against government forces by advancing on the Samtredia railway junction towards Kutaisi.

Official sources in Tbilisi link the intensification of combat activity and the attainment of success by the opposing side with the fact that, according to their information, the Zviadists have been reinforced over the past few days by men and combat equipment from the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples.

Official Doubts Ability To Seize Zugdidi

NC3010150293 Yerevan SNARK in English 1159 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Tbilisi, October 30 (SNARK)—"To capture the last Zviadists' stronghold in the western Georgia, that is the Zugdidi town, the governmental troops haven't enough force". Vladimir Chikovani, head of the Georgian internal forces, head military advisor of Eduard Shevardnadze, told SNARK. According to Chikovani, the situation will become better in the nearest future—the additional detachments are being moved in to Zugdidi. "We are trying to avoid bloodshed, but the ex-president's supporters will defend their positions till the last drop of blood. But Gamsakhurdia and his hirelings realize that they will be and should be tried". Vladimir Chikovani said.

Zviadist-Ardzinba Units Attack Senaki

LD3110085293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Zaza Bilikhodze, an employee at the Georgian Interior Ministry press center, has told the Contact news agency that Ardzinba-Gamsakhurdia armed supporters, together with the confederation fighters, launched another attack on the state armed troops at the approaches to Senaki.

According to operational data, there are about 800 fighters in the confederation units.

The town is being shelled and there are casualties both among civilians and the state forces.

Fighting is continuing at the approaches to Senaki, where all kinds of weapons are being used, heavy equipment and artillery installations among them.

Mkhedrioni Members, Reservists Mobilized

LD3110182193 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] To end the program, here is an announcement:

The members and reservists of Mkhedrioni from Tbilisi, Mtskheta, Kakheti, Sukhumi, Dusheti, and Gori who are not participating in combat actions are to report today, 31 October, at 1700 to the Chess Palace [theater building in Tbilisi] with full combat equipment.

Zviadists Dig In Along Tekhuri River

LD3110124693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] According to information as of this morning, Georgian government forces and formations of the supporters of ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia have taken up positions along the Tekhuri River, not far from the town of Senaki. Supporters of the ex-president tried yesterday evening to force a river crossing, but the attack was beaten off. Interfax has learned from the Georgian Defense Ministry that both sides are mustering forces to start decisive actions.

In an interview given to Georgian television, Eduard Shevardnadze expressed the opinion that the government forces' sudden surrender of Khobi and Senaki is mainly linked to external factors, the involvement in combat activities on the Zviadists' side of detachments from the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples.

'Mercenaries' Attack Railways in West

LD3110141793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] According to the CONTACT news agency, the bandit gangs of the confederation mercenaries hired by Gamsakhurdia have been active in the combat zone in west Georgia.

They launched an attack today on the railway line near the Abasha bridge which is being guarded by Russian Army units. The attackers got an adequate response when the Russian Army repelled them 7 kilometers from [the village of] Chaladiri in the direction of Poti as the confederates attempted to launch an attack on the railway there.

The Confederation units are displaying an exceptional ruthlessness. They take no heed of Georgian towns, rayons, and populated areas and the population of Georgia. They are destroying buildings using Grad installations and are extremely ruthless toward the Georgian population.

It is very unfortunate that the above-mentioned atrocities are being committed by the Caucasian mercenaries with immediate support, help, and encouragement of the Gamsakhurdia supporters. An alliance between Gamsakhurdia, Ardzinba, and other Caucasian killers is obvious, as well as are the aims of the Confederation peoples.

Georgian Armed Forces are carrying out relevant measures to repel them.

Zviadists Advance on Senaki, Attack Russians

LD3110164693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Reports from western Georgia speak of intense fighting between government troops and supporters of ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia in the area between the towns of Senaki and Abasha. INTERFAX has learned from competent sources in Tbilisi that Zviadist formations have succeeded in forcing units loyal to the government back from approaches to Senaki.

Meanwhile in the area of Samtredia, Zviadists have attacked a mechanized subunit of Russian troops, who were forced to return fire. As far as we know, there have been no casualties on the Russian side.

State Troops Enter Senaki

LD3110170693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1655 GMT 31 Oct 93

[By GIA correspondent for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Senaki, 31 Oct—It has emerged from military sources that following fierce fighting, government troops entered the town of Senaki this afternoon. Supporters of the ex-president [Gamsakhurdia] are continuing to resist.

Gamsakhurdia's Whereabouts Uncertain

LD3110182393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 31 Oct 93

//(From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent N. Kandiashvili, in Georgia] In the past 24 hours the situation in the west of Georgia has

exacerbated to an extreme degree. Despite this, however, Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state and chairman of parliament, is staying in the area of hostilities for a third successive day. In his words, drastic measures need to be taken in western Georgia.

Meanwhile, fighting was in progress today near Zugdidi, the Zviadists' last stronghold. Unconfirmed reports say that Gamsakhurdia himself has fled from Zugdidi to Batumi.

Today armed gangs perpetrated a terrorist act with the view to capturing territory in two sections of the railway guarded by the Russian military, one 7 km from Poti and the other near the Abashistskali river. They were repulsed, however, after which they opened fire from Grad rocket launchers.

Fierce fighting is continuing at this very minute, while Shevardnadze is holding a conference in Samtredia with commanders of the Georgian Armed Forces. [Video shows Shevardnadze talking to an unidentified correspondent, fighting on the ground, several tanks]

[Announcer] The INTERFAX agency has reported that a mechanized subunit of Russian troops guarding the bridge over the Abasha river near the town of Samtredia was attacked today by Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporters and engaged in fighting with them. The duty officer of the Russian group of forces in the Transcaucasus has said there have been no killed or wounded among Russian servicemen.

Incidentally, according to INTERFAX, Zviad Gamsakhurdia remains in Zugdidi.

Tbilisi Confirms Control of Senaki

LD3110182893 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Let us start with information we have received from the head of the Defense Ministry press center, Major Soso Margishvili.

Active positional fighting with the use of artillery and heavy equipment continued on the approaches to Senaki all day today. Also today, units of the Defense Ministry 11th brigade led by Colonel Davit Tevzadze took control of the center of Senaki. At the moment, fighting is under way in areas adjacent to (?Khobi).

Fighters from the above-mentioned brigade have seized an enemy infantry combat vehicle, destroyed a KamAZ lorry laden with ammunition, and took several fighters prisoner after a minor clash several kilometers north of Martvili.

Chechens, Abkhazians Reinforce Zviadists in Zugdidi

Caucasus Peoples Confederation Aids Zviadists

LD2910164593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1532 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 29 Oct—The armed formations loyal to former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia are being reinforced with detachments from the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples, which are either arriving via Abkhazia or crossing directly into Georgia from Chechniya. This information was circulated in Georgia by the republic's Ministry of Defense, quoting intelligence reports. This explains the increased resistance by the rebels against government forces, and also why a number of population centers in western Georgia are constantly changing hands.

Judging by evidence given by captured Zviadists, which has been cited in the local media, the rebel forces have been reinforced by at least 1,000 men from the confederation who have experience of combat in Abkhazia. They include qualified military specialists.

According to the Georgian Ministry of Defense, this enables the former president's supporters to achieve breakthroughs and to carry out flanking maneuvers, using heavy equipment and artillery systems. For instance, the town of Khobi has repeatedly changed hands, and now, judging by reports arriving from western Georgia, there is now no single front line there.

Further on Reinforcements

LD2910173293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] It has emerged from reliable sources that three armored personnel carriers and 10 Ikarus coaches filled with Abkhaz and north Caucasian combatants armed to the teeth recently entered Zugdidi from Abkhazia.

The Georgian head of state's press service circulated a statement about this, saying, in particular, that the above-mentioned instance speaks of the shameful alliance between the supporters of the former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia and the Gudauta group.

Reinforcements Estimated at 500

LD2910193293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Soso Margishvili, head of the press center of the Defense Ministry of Georgia, told a SAKINFORM correspondent that according to preliminary data, about 500 Abkhaz and north Caucasian combatants have arrived in the Zugdidi region.

Government Statement on Reinforcements

LD2910213693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2121 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi October 30 TASS—A statement of the Georgian Government was circulated on Friday in connection with the arrival of ten buses with armed militants and heavy materiel in the area of location of the ex-Georgian president's supporters in Zugdidi.

The buses came on October 28 from Abkhazia, whose territory is controlled by forces of the Abkhazian separatist group.

"Bandit units, who came to the area on another impudent action, include only representatives of the so-called Confederation of Caucasian Peoples. The new intervention is done by those who are not satisfied with occupation of Abkhazia, barbarian reprisal of tens of thousands of people, pogroms and humiliation of civilians and whose actions were clearly described by the international public as crime against mankind," says the statement.

The Georgian Government considers the latest developments as a new interference in affairs of a sovereign state, notes the document.

"Justifiably counting on further successful development of relations with democratic Russia and consolidation of progressive forces in the face of a threat of unrestrained extremism, the Georgian Government expresses the assurance the Russian Government will not only give an immediate adequate estimation of the illegal actions in accordance with its international obligations but also prevent the escalation of the aggression that is fraught with a new large-scale conflict," says the statement.

Abkhazians, Chechens Deny Involvement

LD3010153193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1357 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] In an interview with Interfax, Abkhazia's Defence Minister Sultan Sosnaliyev has dismissed as a lie all reports that Abkhazian troops are involved in the fighting in West Georgia. In his words, Abkhazian units have reinforced their positions along the Inguri river "to frustrate a new attempt by Georgian troops to cross into sovereign Abkhazia". He emphasized that Abkhazians would retaliate if attacked by Georgians.

He also denied any fighting in Abkhazian Svanetia (on the border with Georgia).

Meanwhile, the Caucasian Nations Confederation Vice-President Gennadiy Alamia has refuted information about confederates involvement in the fighting in Georgia.

"Confederation units will fight only if Georgia attacks Abkhazia", Alamiya declared.

In the meantime, local observers do not rule out the participation of separate Abkhazian servicemen in the war on the side of the ex President Gamsakhurdia. They believe that the only reason for that is material interest.

Earlier, various media reported that a convoy of armored vehicles and trucks with up to 1000 Abkhazian and confederation militants had entered the zviadists-held town of Zugdidi.

A spokesman for Abkhazia's Parliament has described as false allegations that Aphasia servicemen are helping zviadists to fight in Georgia. He made it clear that what was taking place there concerned the Republic of Georgia alone.

In regard to appointment by Eduard Shevardnadze of Zurab Erkvania Prime Minister of Abkhazia, he declared that the decision could hardly be conducive for normal relations between Abkhazia and Georgia.

He claimed that Erkvania's policy "had led to bloodshed as a result of hostilities between Abkhazia and Georgia back in July of 1989."

Caucasus Confederation Denies Support

LD3010175493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1654 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The Georgian-Abkhazian conflict: Worries have arisen that the peoples of the northern Caucasus could be drawn into this conflict as well. For example, there were reports that combatants [boytsy] from the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus were on the Zviadist side. These reports were, however, denied on our Panorama program today by Yusuf Soslanbekov, the chairman of the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus. Here is Mayak correspondent Pavel Guskov:

[Guskov, by telephone] Yusuf Soslanbekov said that not one combatant from the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus is taking part in these battles. Abkhazia is not in any way interested in supporting the Zviadist forces, since it is precisely they who are historically to blame for provoking the bloody events in Abkhazia as long ago as summer 1989. Soslanbekov also emphasized that Abkhazia does not under any circumstances want any deterioration in relations with official Tbilisi, since it is precisely normal relations with Tbilisi which will allow the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict to be settled.

Abkhaz Troops Raid 'Abkhazian Svanetia' Georgians

LD2910141593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1351 GMT 29 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Jibuti]

[Text] Moscow October 29 TASS—Abkhazian troops have staged a raid on the villages of Ajara, Lata, Gentsvishi and Saken in the so-called "Abkhazian svanetia", an isolated mountainous region of Abkhasia with a

predominantly Georgian population, a source in the Georgian Interior Ministry told ITAR-TASS by telephone on Friday.

"We do not exclude acts of reprisal against local residents who actively collaborated with "Georgian occupants", the source said.

Boris Machaidze, commandant of the village of Saken, said by telephone that one Georgian and two Abkhases died in a clash near the village.

Shevardnadze Appoints Abkhaz Council of Ministers Head

LD2910171593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] By the decree of the head of the Georgian state, Zurab Erkvania has been appointed chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

Deputy Interior Minister Rescued, Resumes Duties

LD3010152893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1357 GMT 30 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 30 Oct—Giya Gulua, Georgia's deputy interior minister, began discharging his official duties today after a month in Zviadist captivity. He was freed, during an operation involving special forces, from the remand center in the town of Zugdidi, the Gamsakhurdia supporters' "capital," which Georgian troops are trying unsuccessfully to capture.

Kutaisi Official on State, Russian Forces' Actions

LD0111094793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Interview with Soso Margishvili, head of the Georgian Armed Forces press center, by unidentified correspondent in Kutaisi on 1 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Margishvili, it is Monday today, and many listeners do not know about the weekend events. What happened over the weekend?

[Margishvili] We attacked and recaptured Senaki. Let us see what will happen.

[Correspondent] What is the situation like this morning?

[Margishvili] Well, the situation this morning is as follows: We have control over Senaki and our forces have advanced westward from Senaki, in the direction of Khobi. Positions have not changed in Martvili. There have been some minor clashes. For example, there was such a clash yesterday evening near Martvili where a KamAz-type truck of the opposing side, laden with ammunition, was blown up; prisoners were captured and heavy equipment was captured and, well, the war is under way.

A unit of the Russian Army was guarding the railroad, and two days ago it was forced to engage itself in the battle because the Zviadists attacked them, opened fire, and the Russians were forced to return fire. Otherwise, the Russians are being neutral and not interfering in this conflict. [passage omitted]

Gamsakhurdia Urges Russia To Withdraw Troops From Poti

LD3110203793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 31 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Zviad Gamsakhurdia has appealed to the Russian Government, urging it to withdraw Russian troops from the town of Poti. The appeal claims that on 28 October, Poti was captured by the Georgian Army with direct assistance from armor and units of the Russian army.

INTERFAX has learned that Loti Kobalia, commander of the forces of Gamsakhurdia supporters, has approached the Russian troops with a proposal for talks.

Russian Troops Deny Supplying Arms to Government Troops

LD2810140193 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian 0435 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The press center of the group of Russian forces in the Transcaucasus has denied a report that Russia has given T-72 tanks and other military equipment to government troops in W. Georgia. Moreover, the Russian side has not given Georgia any weaponry since September 1992.

Spokesman Condemns Gamsakhurdia for Officers' Deaths

LD2910215493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1751 GMT 29 Oct 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's press spokesman Zaza Kandelaki, has told Interfax that Zviad Gamsakhurdia loyalists cannot be forgiven for killing the commander of Georgia's Air Force, General Zurab Nairashvili, and two army officers. According to Kandelaki, these murders pose "another example of what Zviadism is really like." Gamsakhurdia loyalists "do not stop at detaining anyone who comes for negotiations, and they did it more than once. Now they switched to murders."

Kandelaki said that the ex-president's supporters would not escape punishment for these killings.

IF Note: The bodies of Nairashvili and two other officers were discovered in the city of Abasha when the ex-president's supporters had fled. The general and his subordinates arrived in Abasha on Monday for talks on exchanging prisoners of war.

In his interview with Interfax Kandelaki also spoke about the need to preserve Georgia's territorial integrity. Most experts believe that, when the Gamsakhurdia loyalists are finally defeated, Georgia's leadership will have to deal with this problem directly.

The press service leader said in this connection: "Despite its temporary difficulties, Georgia will leave not a single violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity unanswered for."

In comments on the results of the session held in Sukhumi on Tuesday by the parliament of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples, he qualified the forum as "another unceremonious act of intervention in Georgia's internal affairs on the part of the forces that seek to further complicate the already tragic relations between Georgians and Abkhazians."

IF Note: At the session, delegates from North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, Daghestan and Kabardino- Balkaria expressed support for the people of Abkhazia and called for economic aid to them. In addition, the session decided to conduct one stage of the Congress of Caucasian Peoples, planned for November, in Tskhinvali, the administrative center of South Ossetia, a self-proclaimed republic situated on Georgian territory.

Observers in Tbilisi have no doubt that the resistance of Gamsakhurdia loyalists will be broken in the next few days. In this connection experts call attention to the fact that Russia and Armenia took concrete steps in response to the Georgian leader's call for guarding highways and railways jointly.

The chief of the press center of the Transcaucasian Group of Russian Troops, Colonel Gennady Dolgachev, told Interfax that Russian servicemen began to guard the railway between Poti and Tbilisi Thursday evening. They are instructed to shoot to kill when they spot saboteurs or persons aiming to hinder the movement of trains near the railway.

Russia has assigned its division deployed in the administrative center of Akhalkalaki to guard the railway. Its servicemen undertook to protect all bridges and tunnels between Poti and Tbilisi. Mobile units began to patrol the railroad.

According to Dolgachev, it became possible for Russian troops to guard the railway in Georgia when military actions between the government troops and ex-president's supporters stopped near it.

For his part, the chief of the information department of the Armenian Defense Ministry's press service, Gagik Martoian, told Interfax that Armenia will send to Georgia a battalion numbering 900 men to ensure the normal functioning of the railroad.

In the meantime a senior member of Geydar Aliyev's office told Interfax that Azerbaijan will not be able to grant Eduard Shevardnadze's request and send its military units to Georgia to guard the railroad. Baku will have to mobilize all its forces to rebuff Armenian aggression, the Azerbaijani official explained.

Caucasian Peoples' Confederation Warns Shevardnadze

LD0111104393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] The state press centre reports that Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, has received a letter from the Caucasian Peoples' Confederation.

The parliament of the Caucasian Peoples' Confederation and the Parliamentary Council are seriously alarmed over the policy of revanchism in Abkhazia carried out by you and your colleagues, the letter says. Its authors express a hope that Eduard Shevardnadze will assess the results of the war in Abkhazia conducted by the Georgian leadership with common sense, and that it will be a good lesson to think about the policy of violence exercised against the people who had decided to solve their fate themselves, according to the norms of the commonly established international law.

The Caucasian Peoples' Confederation calls on the head of state to think once again about the roots of Georgia's latest policy. The letter describes this policy as aggressive, militarist and naziist, and regrets that of late this policy has become extremely popular among the Georgian authorities.

An open threat expressed in the letter is worth noting: It says that if the Georgian authorities continue with their attempts to wage a pillaging war in Abkhazia, its results will be even more catastrophic for the peoples in Georgia and the Georgian statehood.